INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLING PHENOMENON

THE ALCHEMIST

A GRAPHIC NOVEL

PAULO COELHO

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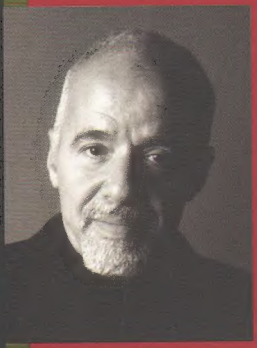

born in Rio de Janeiro in 1947, is one of the bestselling and most influential authors in the world. *The Alchemist, The Pilgrimage, The Valkyries, Brida, Veronika Decides to Die, Eleven Minutes, The Zahir, The Witch of Portobello,* and *The Winner Stands Alone,* among others, have sold 115 million copies in more than 160 countries. Visit the author online at www.paulocoelho.com.

DANIEL SAMPERE, illustrator, was born in 1985. At the age of eighteen he attended an illustration academy in Barcelona. His first project was Spirit for Alpha Omega Comics and later Domino Lady for Moonstone Comics. Daniel is currently living in Spain.

DEREK RUIZ, adapter, has been a graphic novel writer and editor for the past ten years. In 2010 he cowrote the graphic adaption of the *New York Times* bestselling author Dean Koontz's *Fear Nothing.*

SEA LION BOOKS LLC, located in Atlanta, Georgia, is a newly established publishing and graphics house that specializes in graphic novels, urban fantasy, and young adult genres. www.sealionbooks.com

HarperCollins*Publishers*

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Magnificently illustrated and carefully reviewed by Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist: A Graphic Novel* is a stunning interpretation of this international bestselling classic.

Andalusian shepherd boy Santiago travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried in the Pyramids. Along the way he meets a Gypsy woman, a man who calls himself king, and an alchemist, all of whom point Santiago in the direction of his quest. No one knows what the treasure is, or if Santiago will be able to surmount the obstacles along the way. But what starts out as a journey to find worldly goods turns into a discovery of the treasure found within.

Since its first printing *The Alchemist* has been translated into seventy-one languages and sold forty million copies worldwide, establishing itself as a modern classic that will enchant and inspire readers for generations to come. Beautifully rendered, *The Alchemist: A Graphic Novel* is a must have for any collector's library.

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PAULO COELHO

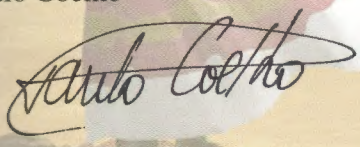
30 Setembro 2010

It was an old dream of mine to have The Alchemist as a graphic novel. I had received several proposals but none of them came anywhere near the classical vision I have in my mind for a graphic format. When I saw Sea Lion Books' proposal however it took me less than half an hour to make my decision. And I must admit that I am very thrilled that I had gone with my instincts to go with them instead of another.

From the first page to the last, I have been enthralled by the superior work from Sea Lion Books and kept on the edge of my seat. Santiago just seemed to spring to life right before my eyes, as well as all the other characters from The Alchemist. I was honored when David Dabel asked me if I would mind if the King of Salem could bear my resemblance. I had not foreseen that I would star in the graphic novel, but it was a very pleasant surprise.

To those who've read The Alchemist novel before, you will soon discover the graphic novel does not lose the essence of the story at all, but in fact enhances upon it visually. If, however, you are a first time reader, I do hope you enjoy Santiago's journey. Thanks.

Sincerely Yours,
Paulo Coelho



DANIEL SAMPERE

When my manager told me if I would draw the graphic novel of The Alchemist, the first thing I thought was "The Alchemist?" there's no action on The Alchemist or super heroes! I've always drawn action comics. Then I started thinking, and I felt a lot of pressure. The Alchemist is one of the most important best sellers in history with million of fans, and I knew that it was going to be a really good challenge for me.

When I started working on the pages, the magic of the book quickly invaded me, and I started enjoying drawing desert scenes, really beautiful landscapes. I think when you read the novel, you get a very relaxed feeling, it just calms you in a very good way and that was really difficult to transmit all those feelings on the pages. I tried to create an art style that would transmit this sensation that the original book gave you.

It's been a really difficult and stressful experience too, but all the hard work I put into the pages were worth it. I'm very happy because I worked with a really great team, the inkers, and the colorists impressed me. The entire creative team did amazing work.

The Alchemist talks about personal legends, and to follow your dreams. It is an invitation for everyone to fight for what you want in life without any fear. That's why I want to dedicate this book to my grandfather, because he was the person who inspired me to be a comic book artist and the person who taught me, and encouraged me to fight to follow my dream. Without him, I would never have become an artist. To the memory of my grandpa, the best artist I've ever met

Daniel Sampere

Daniel Sampere

DEREK RUIZ

It feels like only yesterday that David Dabel brought "The Alchemist" to my attention. Up until that point I never heard of "The Alchemist" or its wonderful message, so reading it was very enlightening. You see, the book tells you that everything on the planet has a Personal Legend. A Personal Legend is what you always wanted to accomplish in your life. You usually know what your Personal Legend is when you are younger. When you are younger you believe all your dreams can become a reality, because they can. Young people are usually described as fearless dreamers. I would rather be a dreamer than someone who just settles for what is easy in life. Since I was eight years old I have wanted to work in the comic book industry. Working in the comic industry and being successful at it has been my Personal Legend. I have had my ups and downs just like Santiago. There have been times where I've wanted to give it all up but my heart wouldn't let it. It would whisper to me that things will get better and all your struggles will pay off. Finally with Sea Lion Books I feel like I've reached a place where my dreams are finally going to be fulfilled and getting to the end of my Personal Legend is finally at hand.

I want to dedicate this book to my mother and father for always telling me to follow my dreams because they will never let me down. I would also like to thank my family and friends for being very supportive while I was hard at work on adapting this book. You guys are the best!

Finally I want to thank Paulo Coelho for writing this work of art that makes clear what we all should know about life.

Never Give Up On Your Dreams.

Derek Ruiz

Derek Ruiz

A Special

Thank You

To:

Paulo Coelho
Mônica R. Antunes
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Waki
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Mohan
IGF (Sunny Gho)
Shefali
Bill Tortolini
Digikore
Izrael

THE ALCHEMIST

written by:

PAULO COELHO

adapted by:

DEREK RUIZ

artwork by:

DANIEL SAMPERE

and

Others

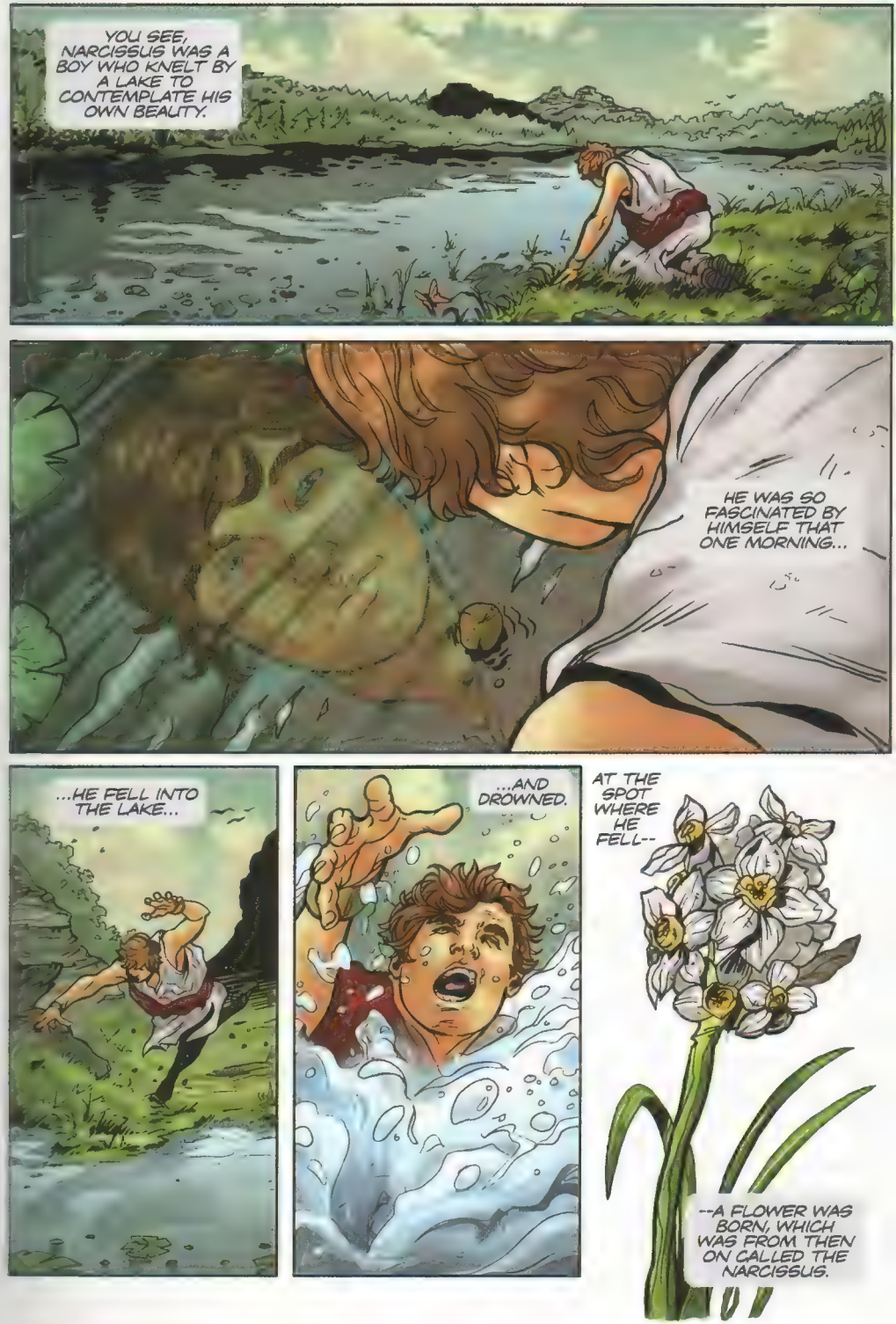
Sea Lion Books
www.seaLionbooks.com

HarperOne
www.harpercollins.com

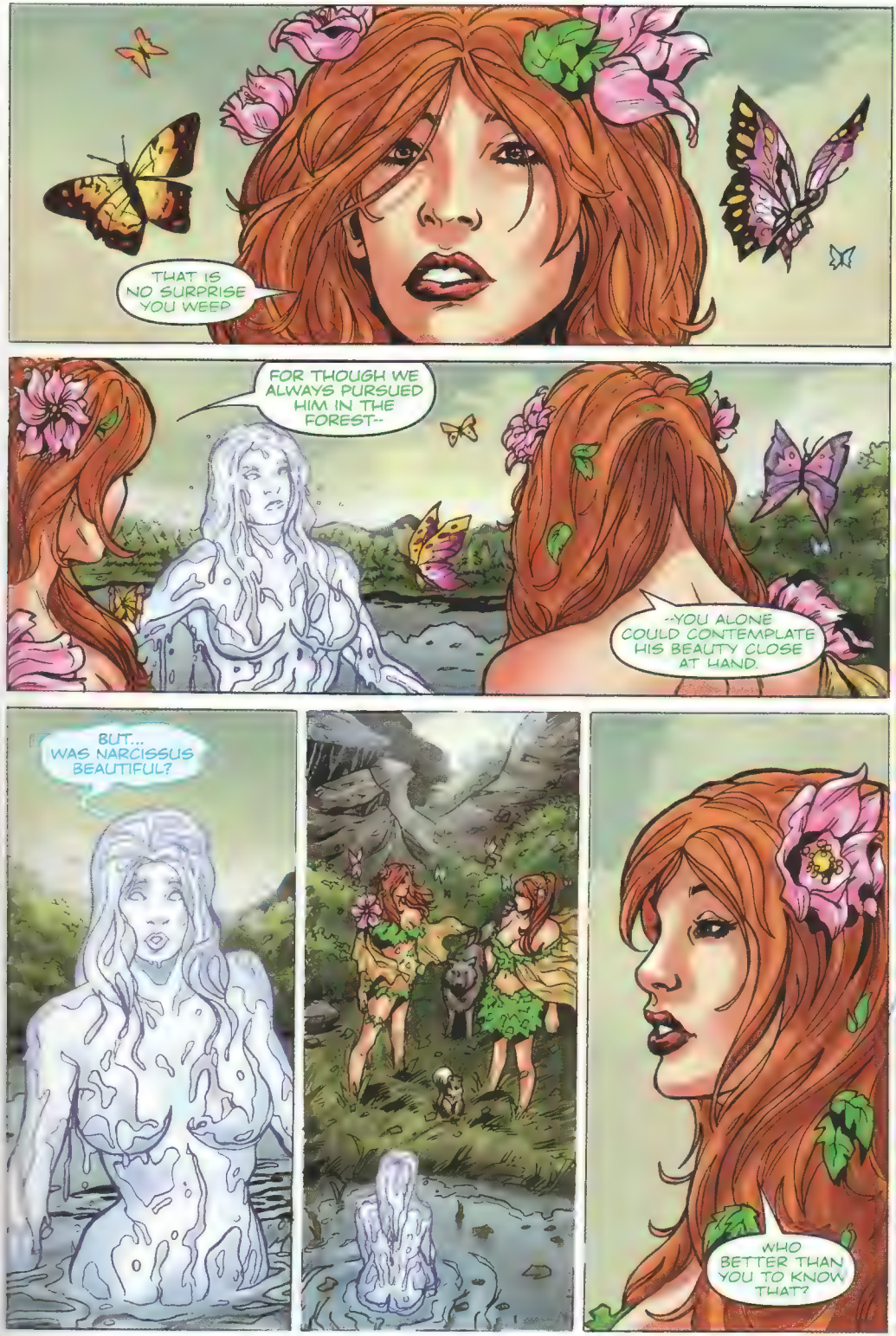
The Al-Fayoum Oasis

WHAT IS IT YOU HAVE BROUGHT, BOY?
UH...
JUST SOME BOOKS AND OTHER GOODS FROM TANGIER.
WELL?
I WOULD LIKE TO LOOK AT THESE BOOKS.
I... I MUST ATTEND TO THE CAMELS.
AH, LET US SEE WHAT THE DESERT HAS BROUGHT US THIS TIME, MY FRIEND.
screech!

THIS IS THE TALE OF NARCISSUS.
The tale of Narcissus
screech!
I HAVE READ IT MANY TIMES.
LET ME TELL YOU THE STORY.


YOU SEE, NARCISSUS WAS A BOY WHO KNELT BY A LAKE TO CONTEMPLATE HIS OWN BEAUTY.
HE WAS SO FASCINATED BY HIMSELF THAT ONE MORNING...
...HE FELL INTO THE LAKE...
...AND DROWNED.
AT THE SPOT WHERE HE FELL--
--A FLOWER WAS BORN, WHICH WAS FROM THEN ON CALLED THE NARCISSUS.

AH HA. LOOK, MY FRIEND, THIS VERSION ADDS MORE TO THE STORY.
IT SAYS HERE...
...THAT WHEN NARCISSUS DIED, THE GODDESSES OF THE FOREST APPEARED.
THEY DISCOVERED THAT WHAT HAD ONCE BEEN A FRESH-WATER LAKE HAD TRANSFORMED INTO A POOL OF SALTY TEARS.
WHY DO YOU WEEP?


THAT IS NO SURPRISE YOU WEEP
FOR THOUGH WE ALWAYS PURSUED HIM IN THE FOREST--
--YOU ALONE COULD CONTEMPLATE HIS BEAUTY CLOSE AT HAND.
BUT... WAS NARCISSUS BEAUTIFUL?
WHO BETTER THAN YOU TO KNOW THAT?

AFTER ALL, IT WAS BY YOUR BANK THAT HE KNELT EACH DAY TO CONTEMPLATE HIMSELF!
THEN WHY DO YOU WEEP?

WHAT A LOVELY STORY.

Andalusia Countryside, Spain
THE BOY'S NAME WAS SANTIAGO.
COME, MY FRIENDS, LET US REST WITHIN THE CHURCH TONIGHT.
THERE WERE NO WOLVES IN THE REGION.
WE DON'T WANT ANYONE WANDERING OFF IN THE DARK.
BUT IF AN ANIMAL STRAYED AWAY DURING THE NIGHT...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, LITTLE ONE?
BAHHH.
...AND THE BOY HAD TO SPEND THE ENTIRE NEXT DAY SEARCHING FOR IT.

THIS SHOULD BE GOOD FOR THE NIGHT.
FIND COMFORTABLE PLACES FOR YOURSELVES, MY FRIENDS.
THIS WILL DO FOR ME.
NOW TO FINISH THAT BOOK.
WHERE WAS I?

Pages later...
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO START READING THICKER BOOKS.
The End
THEY LAST LONGER.
AND MAKE BETTER PILLOWS.
GOODNIGHT, MY FRIENDS.

Later
IT WAS THE DREAM AGAIN.
WHY CAN I NOT SEE THE END OF THIS DREAM?
BAHHH.

YOU MUST BE GETTING USED TO MY SCHEDULE, MY FRIENDS.
OR MAYBE I AM GETTING USED TO YOURS!
FELIPE! WAKE UP, LAZYHEAD.
YOU ALWAYS TRY TO SLEEP LONGER THAN THE REST.
HE CALLED EACH SHEEP BY NAME...
...FELIPE, ALBA, MARIA, FRANCISCO...
IT IS TIME TO HEAD TO THE FIELDS.

COME, FELIPE, LET US GO.
SOON WE WILL SEE HER AGAIN.
THE MERCHANT'S DAUGHTER IS ALWAYS SO NICE TO US.
AND SHE'S BEAUTIFUL.
IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY WE MET HER.

THE MERCHANT WAS THE PROPRIETOR OF A DRY GOODS SHOP, AND HE ALWAYS DEMANDED THAT THE SHEEP BE SHEARED IN HIS PRESENCE, SO THAT HE WOULD NOT BE CHEATED.
I WOULD LIKE TO SELL SOME WOOL.
IF YOU CAN COME BACK LATER WHEN THE SHOP IS LESS BUSY, I WILL TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR SHEEP.
THE AFTERNOON MIGHT BE BEST.
YES, SIR. I SHALL RETURN THIS AFTERNOON.

MIGHT AS WELL CATCH UP ON SOME READING.

I DIDN'T KNOW SHEPHERDS KNEW HOW TO READ.

WELL...I...
...UH.

WELL, USUALLY I LEARN MORE FROM MY SHEEP THAN FROM BOOKS.

THEY TALKED FOR TWO HOURS, AND SHE TOLD HIM SHE WAS THE MERCHANT'S DAUGHTER, AND SPOKE OF LIFE IN THE VILLAGE, WHERE EACH DAY WAS LIKE ALL THE OTHERS.
SANTIAGO TOLD HER OF THE ANDALUSIAN COUNTRYSIDE, AND RELATED THE NEWS FROM THE OTHER TOWNS WHERE HE HAD STOPPED.
IT IS GOOD TO HAVE SOMEONE ELSE TO TALK TO BESIDES THE SHEEP.
I BET IT IS.
HOW DID YOU LEARN TO READ?
LIKE EVERYBODY LEARNS--
--IN SCHOOL.
WELL, IF YOU KNOW HOW TO READ, WHY ARE YOU JUST A SHEPHERD?
I...UH... WELL...LET ME TELL YOU OF SOME OF MY TRAVELS.
AS THE TIME PASSED, THE BOY FOUND HIMSELF WISHING THAT THE DAY WOULD NEVER END, THAT HER FATHER WOULD STAY BUSY AND KEEP HIM WAITING FOR THREE DAYS.
HE RECOGNIZED THAT HE WAS FEELING SOMETHING HE HAD NEVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE: THE DESIRE TO LIVE IN ONE PLACE FOREVER.
WITH THE GIRL WITH THE RAVEN HAIR, HIS DAYS WOULD NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.

I AM READY FOR YOU TO SHEAR THOSE SHEEP FOR ME.
I HOPE MY DAUGHTER HASN'T TALKED YOUR EAR OFF, SHEPHERD.
NO, SIR. SHE HELPED ME PASS THE TIME.
AH, THIS IS FINE WOOL.
I TAKE VERY GOOD CARE OF MY FRIENDS, SIR.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THIS WOOL.
HERE IS THE PAYMENT.
THANK YOU, SIR.
BE SURE TO STOP BY WITH THESE WONDERFUL SHEEP AGAIN NEXT YEAR. I SHOULD BE IN NEED OF MORE OF THIS WONDERFUL WOOL.
I WILL.

:SIGH:
SHE'S GONE.
LET US GO, MY FRIENDS...
...THERE ARE MANY MORE ADVENTURES AHEAD OF US BEFORE WE CAN RETURN.
ADVENTURES I CAN TELL THE MERCHANT'S DAUGHTER ABOUT.
BAHH?!
AND MAYBE I WILL REMEMBER TO ASK HER NAME NEXT TIME....

A year passes...
FOUR MORE DAYS AND I'LL BE ABLE TO TALK TO THE MERCHANT'S DAUGHTER AGAIN.
HOPEFULLY, NO OTHER SHEPHERDS HAVE WON HER HEART.
NOT THAT IT MATTERS.
I KNOW OTHER GIRLS IN OTHER PLACES.
BUT HIS HEART KNEW THAT IT DID MATTER.
HE KNEW THAT SHEPHERDS, LIKE SEAMEN AND TRAVELING SALESMEN, ALWAYS FOUND A TOWN WHERE THERE WAS SOMEONE TO MAKE THEM FORGET THE JOYS OF CAREFREE WANDERING.

THIS WAY, MY FRIENDS.
MY SHEEP NEVER HAVE TO MAKE ANY DECISIONS.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY ALWAYS STAY CLOSE TO ME.
THE ONLY THINGS THAT CONCERN THEM ARE FOOD AND WATER.
AS LONG AS I KNOW HOW TO FIND THE BEST PASTURES IN ANDALUSIA, THEY'LL BE MY FRIENDS.
TRUE, THE DAYS ARE OFTEN ALL THE SAME, WITH ENDLESS HOURS BETWEEN DAYLIGHT AND DUSK, AND MY SHEEP NEVER READ BOOKS OR UNDERSTAND ME WHEN I TELL THEM ABOUT THE PLACES WE'VE BEEN.
THEY ARE CONTENT SO LONG AS THEY HAVE FOOD AND WATER, AND IN EXCHANGE THEY GIVE ME THEIR WOOL, THEIR COMPANY AND-- ONCE IN A WHILE-- THEIR MEAT.

WHAT IF I BECAME A MONSTER TODAY....
"...AND DECIDED TO KILL THEM?
"WOULD THEY EVEN KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING?
"THEY WOULD ONLY BECOME AWARE WHEN MOST OF THE FLOCK HAD BEEN SLAUGHTERED."
BAHH?!
BAH!!
THUD
THUD
THUD
BAAH?!

BAHH!
HUH?!?
YOU GUYS TRUST ME, SO MUCH SO YOU'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO RELY ON YOUR OWN INSTINCTS, BECAUSE I LEAD YOU TO NOURISHMENT.
BAH!
MAYBE THAT CHURCH WITH THE SYCAMORE WAS HAUNTED.
IT WAS THERE I HAD MY DREAM FOR THE SECOND TIME, AND NOW I'M THINKING TERRIBLE THOUGHTS ABOUT MY COMPANIONS.
SOON THE SUN WILL BE AT ITS HOTTEST.
THE WHOLE OF SPAIN WILL BE TAKING A SIESTA.
IT'S JUST TOO HOT TO DO ANY WORK.

WHEN I MEET THE MERCHANT'S DAUGHTER AGAIN, I WILL TELL HER HOW A SIMPLE SHEPHERD LIKE ME CAME TO BE EDUCATED.
MY PARENTS WANTED ME TO BE MORE THAN JUST A FARMER. THEY WANTED ME TO BE A PRIEST.
I ATTENDED THE SEMINARY UNTIL I WAS SIXTEEN. IT WAS A SOURCE OF GREAT PRIDE FOR MY SIMPLE FARM FAMILY.
BAH!
I STUDIED LATIN, SPANISH, AND THEOLOGY. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY.
BUT EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD I WANTED TO KNOW THE WORLD.
I THOUGHT SEEING THE WORLD WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN KNOWING GOD AND LEARNING OF MAN'S SINS.
SO ON A VISIT HOME TWO YEARS AGO, I TOLD MY FATHER I WANTED TO TRAVEL.

Two years earlier
PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD HAVE PASSED THROUGH THIS VILLAGE, SON.
THEY COME IN SEARCH OF NEW THINGS, BUT THEY LEAVE THE SAME AS WHEN THEY ARRIVED.
THEY CLIMB THE MOUNTAINS TO SEE THE CASTLE, AND THEY WIND UP THINKING THE PAST WAS BETTER THAN WHAT WE HAVE NOW.
THEY HAVE BLOND HAIR, OR DARK SKIN, BUT BASICALLY THEY'RE THE SAME AS THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE RIGHT HERE.
BUT I'D LIKE TO SEE THE CASTLES IN THE TOWNS WHERE THEY LIVE.
THE PEOPLE WHO COME HERE HAVE A LOT OF MONEY AND CAN AFFORD TO TRAVEL.
AMONGST US, THE ONLY ONES WHO TRAVEL ARE SHEPHERDS.
WELL, THEN I'LL BE A SHEPHERD!
AT THAT, MY FATHER FELL SILENT. IT WASN'T UNTIL THE NEXT DAY THAT I KNEW WHAT HE THOUGHT.

IN HIS EYES, I COULD SEE MY FATHER'S DESIRE TO TRAVEL THE WORLD.
IT WAS A DESIRE STILL ALIVE, THOUGH ONE HE BURIED FOR THE SAKE OF HIS STRUGGLE FOR FOOD AND WATER AND SHELTER.
I FOUND THIS IN THE FIELDS ONE DAY. I WANTED IT TO BE YOUR INHERITANCE.
BUT USE THEM TO BUY YOUR FLOCK.
TAKE TO THE FIELDS, AND SOMEDAY YOU'LL LEARN THAT OUR COUNTRYSIDE IS THE BEST AND OUR WOMEN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL.
THANK YOU, FATHER.
HE GAVE ME HIS BLESSING, AND I WAS ON MY WAY TO BEGINNING A LIFE AS A SHEPHERD.

I HAVE SEEN MANY CASTLES AND MET MANY WOMEN.
I AM HAPPY THAT I GET TO LIVE MY DREAM.
IF I WAS EVER TO TIRE OF THE FIELDS OF ANDALUSIA, I COULD SELL THE SHEEP AND GO TO SEA.
I WOULD KNOW EVEN MORE CITIES, OTHER WOMEN, AND OTHER CHANCES TO BE HAPPY.
SOON I WILL BE AT TARIFA.
I CAN EXCHANGE MY BOOK FOR A NEW ONE, GET MORE WINE, SHAVE AND HAVE A HAIRCUT.
I HAVE TO LOOK MY BEST WHEN I SEE THE MERCHANT'S DAUGHTER.
IT'S POSSIBLE TO HAVE A DREAM COME TRUE.
HMMM...
THERE IS ALSO THE WOMAN WHO INTERPRETS DREAMS IN TARIFA.

COME, BOY.
THIS WAY.
UH...
SIT DOWN, BOY.
THANK YOU TO THE MOTHER, THANK YOU TO THE FATHER, THANK YOU TO THE LIVING SPIRIT WITHIN ALL THINGS.
IS THAT A GYPSY PRAYER? I'VE HEARD THEY SPEND THEIR LIVES TRICKING PEOPLE.
VERY INTERESTING.
I DIDN'T COME HERE SO YOU COULD READ MY PALMS!

YOU CAME SO THAT YOU COULD LEARN ABOUT YOUR DREAMS.
DREAMS ARE THE LANGUAGE OF GOD. WHEN HE SPEAKS IN OUR LANGUAGE, I CAN INTERPRET WHAT HE HAS SAID.
BUT IF HE SPEAKS IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE SOUL, IT IS ONLY YOU WHO CAN UNDERSTAND
BUT, WHICHEVER IT IS, I'M GOING TO CHARGE YOU FOR THE CONSULTATION.
COULD THIS BE A TRICK? I MUST TAKE THE CHANCE.
I HAVE HAD THE SAME DREAM TWICE

"I AM IN THE FIELDS WITH MY SHEEP.
"A CHILD APPEARS AND BEGINS TO PLAY WITH THE ANIMALS. I DON'T LIKE THAT. THE SHEEP ARE OFTEN AFRAID OF STRANGERS.
"BUT CHILDREN DON'T FRIGHTEN THEM. I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY KNOW THE DIFFERENT AGES OF HUMAN BEINGS."
HHHHM. INTERESTING, BUT I SUGGEST YOU SKIP THE SMALL DETAILS.
AND YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH MONEY, SO I CAN'T GIVE YOU A LOT OF MY TIME.
"WELL...OKAY. THE CHILD WENT ON PLAYING WITH THE SHEEP AS I APPROACHED.
"SUDDENLY, SHE TURNED AND PLACED HER HANDS ON ME, AND WE WERE TRANSPORTED..."

"...TO A STRANGE AND FARAWAY PLACE, THE PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT.
"POINTING UP AT THE STRUCTURES, THE CHILD SAID..."
IF YOU COME HERE, YOU WILL FIND A HIDDEN TREASURE.
BUT I ALWAYS WAKE UP JUST BEFORE SHE TELLS ME WHERE TO LOOK.
HHHHM. THAT IS BAD LUCK INDEED.
LISTEN, I'M NOT GOING TO CHARGE YOU ANYTHING TODAY.
BUT I WANT ONE-TENTH OF THE TREASURE, IF YOU FIND IT.

FAIR ENOUGH. BUT CAN YOU INTERPRET MY DREAM?
FIRST, SWEAR TO ME.
SWEAR THAT YOU WILL GIVE ME ONE-TENTH OF YOUR TREASURE IN EXCHANGE FOR WHAT I AM GOING TO TELL YOU.
I SWEAR.
NOW LOOK UPON THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SWEAR AGAIN.
I SWEAR.
IT'S A DREAM IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE WORLD.
I CAN INTERPRET IT, BUT THE INTERPRETATION IS VERY DIFFICULT. THAT'S WHY I FEEL THAT I DESERVE A PART OF WHAT YOU FIND.

THIS IS MY INTERPRETATION: YOU MUST GO TO THE PYRAMIDS IN EGYPT.
I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THEM, BUT IF IT WAS A CHILD WHO SHOWED THEM TO YOU, THEY EXIST.
THERE YOU WILL FIND A TREASURE THAT WILL MAKE YOU A RICH MAN.
THAT'S IT? I'M CERTAINLY GLAD THIS SESSION IS FREE.
I TOLD YOU IT WOULDN'T BE EASY. IT'S THE SIMPLE THINGS IN LIFE THAT ARE THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY.
ONLY WISE MEN ARE MEANT TO UNDERSTAND THEM.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET TO EGYPT?
I ONLY INTERPRET DREAMS. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE THEM INTO A REALITY.
WHAT IF I NEVER GO TO EGYPT?
I DON'T GET PAID.
IT WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME.

I'VE WASTED TOO MUCH TIME WITH YOU.
NOW GO.
I'LL NEVER BELIEVE IN DREAMS AGAIN.
I HAVE MUCH TO TAKE CARE OF BEFORE THE DAY IS DONE.
I'LL TAKE TWO.
THANK YOU, MY FRIEND.
I THINK YOU WILL ENJOY THIS ONE. IT IS MUCH THICKER THAN THE LAST ONE.
THE BOY WAITED UNTIL SUNDOWN BEFORE COLLECTING HIS FLOCK AND MAKING HIS WAY BACK TO THE FIELDS.
THREE DAYS FROM NOW, HE WOULD BE WITH THE MERCHANT'S DAUGHTER.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
WORKING. AND YOU?
ME? I AM VERY TIRED.
DO YOU THINK I COULD HAVE SOME OF YOUR WINE?
HERE.
THANK YOU.
HOPEFULLY, THIS WILL GET HIM TO LEAVE ME ALONE.

WHAT BOOK IS IT THAT YOU ARE READING?
THE BOY WAS TEMPTED TO BE RUDE, BUT HIS FATHER HAD TAUGHT HIM TO RESPECT HIS ELDERS.
SO HE HELD OUT THE BOOK FOR TWO REASONS.
ONE, HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO PRONOUNCE THE TITLE.
AND, TWO, IF THE OLD MAN DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO READ HE WOULD BE ASHAMED AND DECIDE TO LEAVE ON HIS OWN.
HMMM...
THAT IS AN IMPORTANT BOOK, BUT IT'S REALLY IRRITATING.
WHAT?!
YOU KNOW OF THIS BOOK?
YES.

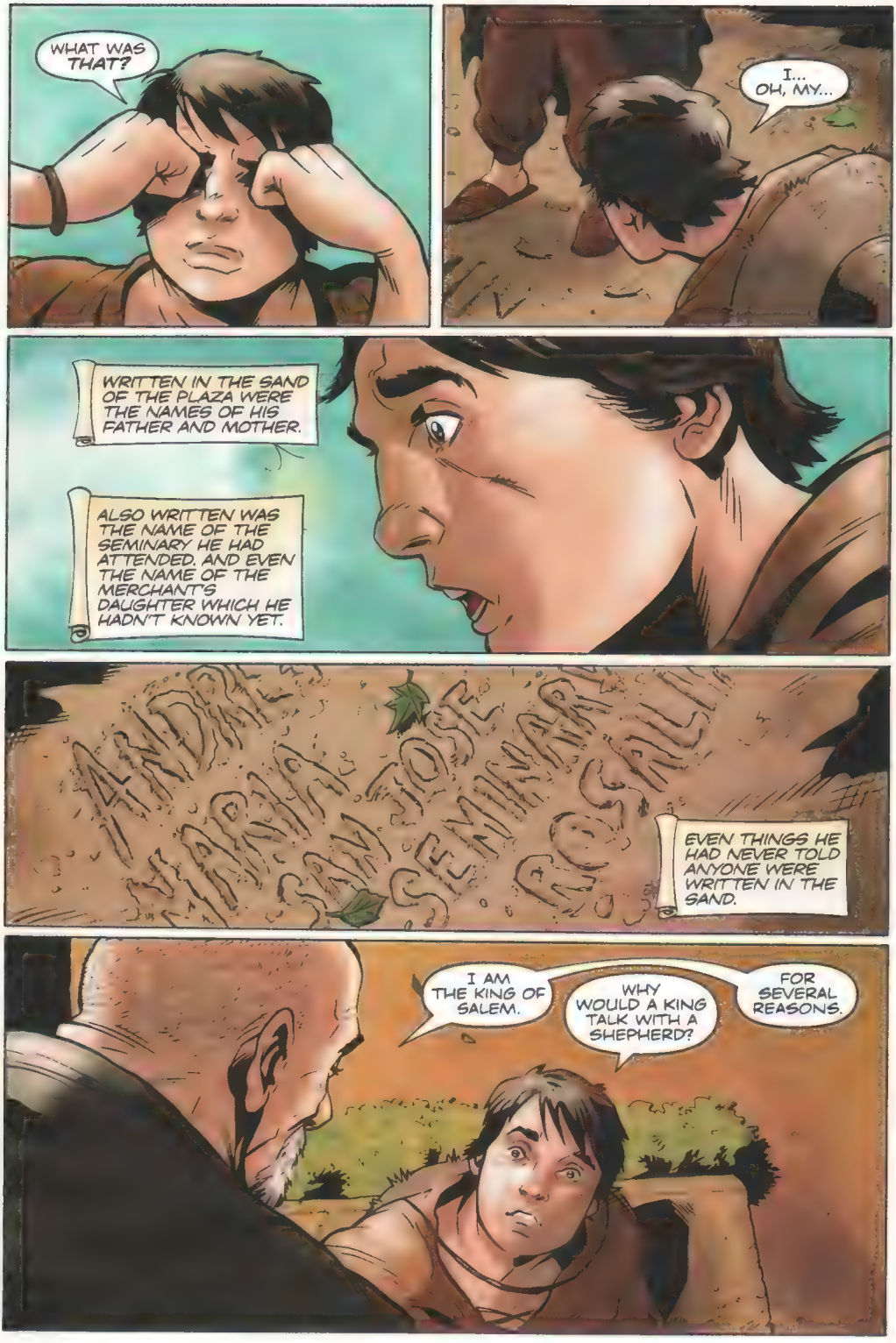
IT'S A BOOK THAT SAYS THE SAME THING ALL OTHER BOOKS IN THE WORLD SAY.
IT DESCRIBES PEOPLE'S INABILITY TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN PERSONAL LEGEND.
AND IT ENDS UP SAYING EVERYONE BELIEVES THE WORLD'S GREATEST LIE.
WHAT'S THE WORLD'S GREATEST LIE?
IT'S THIS...
...THAT AT A CERTAIN POINT IN OUR LIVES, WE LOSE CONTROL OF WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US, AND OUR LIVES BECOME CONTROLLED BY FATE.

THAT'S THE WORLD'S GREATEST LIE.
THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED TO ME.
THEY WANTED ME TO BE A PRIEST, BUT I DECIDED TO BECOME A SHEPHERD.
MUCH BETTER.
BECAUSE YOU REALLY LIKE TO TRAVEL.
HE KNOWS WHAT I AM THINKING!

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
OH, MANY PLACES.
NO ONE CAN BE FROM MANY PLACES.
I'M A SHEPHERD, AND I HAVE BEEN TO MANY PLACES, BUT I COME FROM ONE PLACE. FROM A CITY NEAR A CASTLE.
THAT'S WHERE I WAS BORN.
WELL, THEN, WE COULD SAY I WAS BORN IN SALEM.
SO WHAT IS SALEM LIKE?
IT'S LIKE IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN.
WELL... I...UH...
WHAT DO YOU DO IN SALEM?

I AM KING.
MY NAME IS MELCHIZEDEK.
HOW MANY SHEEP DO YOU HAVE?
ENOUGH.
WELL, THEN, WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM. I CAN'T HELP YOU IF YOU HAVE ENOUGH SHEEP.
GIVE ME MY BOOK.
I HAVE TO GO GATHER MY SHEEP AND GET GOING.

GIVE ME ONE-TENTH OF YOUR SHEEP AND I'LL TELL YOU HOW TO FIND THE HIDDEN TREASURE.
THE BOY REMEMBERED HIS DREAM, AND EVERYTHING WAS CLEAR TO HIM.
THE OLD FORTUNE TELLER HADN'T CHARGED HIM BUT MAYBE THE OLD MAN WAS HER HUSBAND. HE WOULD TRY AND GET MORE MONEY IN EXCHANGE FOR INFORMATION ON SOMETHING THAT DIDN'T EXIST.
LOOK HERE.
AS THE MAN STOOD, SOMETHING BRIGHT FROM HIS CHEST MOMENTARILY BLINDED THE BOY.
AH!


WHAT WAS THAT?
I... OH, MY...
WRITTEN IN THE SAND OF THE PLAZA WERE THE NAMES OF HIS FATHER AND MOTHER.
ALSO WRITTEN WAS THE NAME OF THE SEMINARY HE HAD ATTENDED. AND EVEN THE NAME OF THE MERCHANT'S DAUGHTER WHICH HE HADN'T KNOWN YET.
ANDRÉS
MARÍA
SAN JOSÉ
SEMINARY
ROSALÍA
EVEN THINGS HE HAD NEVER TOLD ANYONE WERE WRITTEN IN THE SAND.
I AM THE KING OF SALEM.
WHY WOULD A KING TALK WITH A SHEPHERD?
FOR SEVERAL REASONS.

BUT LET'S SAY THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT IS THAT YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED IN DISCOVERING YOUR PERSONAL LEGEND.
PERSONAL LEGEND?
IT IS WHAT YOU HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO ACCOMPLISH. EVERYONE, WHEN THEY ARE YOUNG, KNOWS WHAT THEIR PERSONAL LEGEND IS. AT THAT POINT IN THEIR LIVES, EVERYTHING IS CLEAR AND EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE.
THEY ARE NOT AFRAID TO DREAM, AND TO YEARN FOR EVERYTHING THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN TO THEM IN THEIR LIVES. BUT, AS TIME PASSES, A MYSTERIOUS FORCE BEGINS TO CONVINCE THEM THAT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO REALIZE THEIR PERSONAL LEGEND.
NONE OF WHAT THE OLD MAN WAS SAYING MADE MUCH SENSE TO THE BOY.
BUT HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT THE "MYSTERIOUS FORCE" WAS.
IT'S A FORCE THAT APPEARS TO BE NEGATIVE--
--BUT ACTUALLY SHOWS YOU HOW TO REALIZE YOUR PERSONAL LEGEND.
THE MERCHANT'S DAUGHTER WILL BE IMPRESSED BY ALL THE KING HAS TOLD ME SO FAR WHEN I SPEAK WITH HER.

IT PREPARES YOUR SPIRIT AND YOUR WILL, BECAUSE THERE IS ONE GREAT TRUTH ON THIS PLANET:
WHOEVER YOU ARE, OR WHATEVER YOU ARE, OR WHATEVER IT IS THAT YOU DO, WHEN YOU REALLY WANT SOMETHING, IT'S BECAUSE THAT DESIRE ORIGINATED IN THE SOUL OF THE UNIVERSE.
EVEN WHEN ALL YOU WANT TO DO IS TRAVEL? OR MARRY THE DAUGHTER OF A MERCHANT?
YES, OR EVEN SEARCH FOR TREASURE.
THE SOUL OF THE WORLD IS NOURISHED BY PEOPLE'S HAPPINESS AND ALSO UNHAPPINESS, ENVY, AND JEALOUSY.
TO REALIZE ONE'S DESTINY IS A PERSON'S ONLY REAL OBILIGATION.
ALL THINGS ARE ONE.
WHY DO YOU TEND A FLOCK OF SHEEP?
BECAUSE I LIKE TO TRAVEL.

YOU SEE THAT BAKER?
WHEN HE WAS A CHILD, THAT MAN WANTED TO TRAVEL, TOO.
BUT HE DECIDED FIRST TO BUY HIS BAKERY AND PUT SOME MONEY ASIDE.
WHEN HE'S AN OLD MAN, HE'S GOING TO SPEND A MONTH IN AFRICA.
HE NEVER REALIZED THAT PEOPLE ARE CAPABLE, AT ANY TIME IN THEIR LIVES, OF DOING WHAT THEY DREAM OF.
HE SHOULD HAVE BECOME A SHEPHERD.
WELL, HE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT, BUT BAKERS ARE MORE IMPORTANT PEOPLE THAN SHEPHERDS.
BAKERS HAVE HOMES, SHEPHERDS SLEEP OUT IN THE OPEN. PARENTS WOULD RATHER SEE THEIR CHILDREN MARRY BAKERS THAN SHEPHERDS.
THE MERCHANT'S DAUGHTER WILL PROBABLY WANT TO MARRY A BAKER.

IN THE LONG RUN, WHAT PEOPLE THINK ABOUT SHEPHERDS AND BAKERS BECOMES MORE IMPORTANT FOR THEM THAN THEIR OWN PERSONAL LEGENDS.
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS?
BECAUSE YOU ARE TRYING TO REALIZE YOUR PERSONAL LEGEND.
AND YOU ARE AT THE POINT WHERE YOU'RE ABOUT TO GIVE IT ALL UP.
AND THAT'S WHEN YOU ALWAYS APPEAR ON THE SCENE?
NOT ALWAYS IN THIS WAY, BUT I ALWAYS APPEAR IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER.
SOMETIMES I APPEAR IN THE FORM OF A SOLUTION, OR A GOOD IDEA.

AT OTHER TIMES, AT A CRUCIAL MOMENT, I MAKE IT EASIER FOR THINGS TO HAPPEN.
THERE ARE OTHER THINGS I DO, TOO, BUT MOST OF THE TIME PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE I'VE DONE THEM.
"ONCE, TO COME TO THE AID OF A PROSPECTOR, I TOOK THE FORM OF A STONE.
"THIS MAN HAD ABANDONED EVERYTHING IN HIS LIFE TO SEARCH FOR EMERALDS.
"FOR FIVE YEARS HE HAD BEEN WORKING A CERTAIN RIVER.
"HE HAD EXAMINED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF STONES LOOKING FOR EMERALDS.
"AND HE WAS ABOUT TO GIVE UP... JUST AS HE WAS ONLY A STONE AWAY FROM FINDING HIS PRIZE.
"SO I TRANSFORMED MYSELF INTO THE STONE AND ROLLED ONTO HIS FOOT."

"YOU SEE, HE HAD SACRIFICED EVERYTHING TO SEEK HIS PERSONAL LEGEND SO I HAD TO INVOLVE MYSELF.
"IN HIS ANGER AND THE FRUSTRATION OF FIVE FRUITLESS YEARS, HE PICKED UP THE STONE I HAD BECOME...
"...AND THREW IT ASIDE.
"HE THREW IT WITH SUCH FORCE THAT IT BROKE APART.
"EMBEDDED IN THE BROKEN STONE WAS...
"...THE MOST BEAUTIFUL EMERALD IN THE WORLD.
"PEOPLE LEARN, EARLY IN THEIR LIVES, WHAT IS THEIR REASON FOR BEING."

MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY GIVE UP ON IT SO EARLY, TOO. BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT IS.
YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT HIDDEN TREASURE?
TREASURE IS UNCOVERED BY THE FORCE OF FLOWING WATER, AND IT IS BURIED BY THE SAME CURRENTS.
IF YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR OWN TREASURE, YOU WILL HAVE TO GIVE ME ONE-TENTH OF YOUR FLOCK.
WHAT ABOUT ONE-TENTH OF MY TREASURE?
IF YOU START OUT BY PROMISING WHAT YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE YET, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR DESIRE TO WORK TOWARD GETTING IT.
I HAVE ALREADY PROMISED THE GYPSY ONE-TENTH OF THE TREASURE.
:SIGH:
GYPSIES ARE EXPERTS AT GETTING PEOPLE TO DO THAT.
IN ANY CASE, IT'S GOOD THAT YOU'VE LEARNED THAT EVERYTHING IN LIFE HAS A PRICE.
THAT IS WHAT THE WARRIORS OF THE LIGHT TRY TO TEACH.
TOMORROW, AT THIS SAME TIME, BRING ME A TENTH OF YOUR FLOCK AND I WILL TELL YOU HOW TO FIND THE HIDDEN TREASURE.
GOOD AFTERNOON.

I CAN'T EVEN GET INTO THIS BOOK ANYMORE.
THE OLD MAN WAS RIGHT.
I BETTER GO GET SOMETHING TO EAT BEFORE THE DAY IS OVER.
MAYBE IT WILL CALM MY NERVES.
I WILL TAKE ONE LOAF OF BREAD, PLEASE.
AH, GOOD CHOICE. THIS IS MY FINEST.
SHOULD I TELL HIM WHAT THE OLD MAN SAID ABOUT HIM?
HERE YOU GO.
THANK YOU.
IT IS PROBABLY BEST I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

IT WOULD JUST CAUSE LOTS OF ANXIETY FOR THE BAKER AS HE WOULD CONSIDER GIVING IT ALL UP, EVEN THOUGH HE HAD GOTTEN USED TO THE WAY THINGS WERE.
THERE'S THE TICKET WINDOW FOR SHIPS TO AFRICA....
EGYPT IS IN AFRICA... HMMM.
SHOULD I...? HMMM.
CAN I HELP YOU?
MAYBE TOMORROW.
IF I SOLD ONE SHEEP I COULD MAKE IT TO AFRICA...
WHO WAS THAT?
ANOTHER DREAMER.
HE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO TRAVEL.

IN TWO YEARS HE HAD LEARNED EVERYTHING ABOUT SHEPHERDING: HE KNEW HOW TO SHEAR SHEEP, HOW TO CARE FOR PREGNANT EWES AND HOW TO PROTECT THE SHEEP FROM WOLVES.
HE KNEW ALL THE FIELDS AND PASTURES OF ANDALUSIA. AND HE KNEW WHAT WAS THE FAIR PRICE FOR EVERY ONE OF HIS ANIMALS.
BEYOND THE CITY AND OVER THE WATER IS AFRICA. I CAN ALMOST SEE IT IN THE DISTANCE.
I HAVE BEEN TOLD THE MOORS CAME TO OCCUPY ALL OF SPAIN.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I'VE GROWN SO ATTACHED TO MY SHEEP--HOW CAN I JUST GIVE THEM AWAY OR SELL THEM?

THE WIND BEGAN TO PICK UP. HE KNEW THAT WIND: THE PEOPLE HERE NAMED IT THE LEVANTER, BECAUSE THE MOORS FROM LEVANT HAD COME TO SPAIN ON IT.
I AM HERE BETWEEN MY FLOCK AND MY TREASURE.
I LEFT MY FATHER, MY MOTHER, AND THE TOWN CASTLE BEHIND. THEY HAVE GOTTEN USED TO MY BEING AWAY, AND SO HAVE I. THE SHEEP CAN GET USED TO ME NOT BEING THERE, TOO.
"THE MERCHANT'S DAUGHTER PROBABLY DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER ME."
THAT BAKER...
THE SHEEP, THE MERCHANT'S DAUGHTER, AND THE FIELDS OF ANDALUSIA WERE ONLY STEPS ALONG THE WAY TO MY PERSONAL LEGEND.
I KNOW WHAT I MUST DO.

The next day
I'M SURPRISED.
MY FRIEND BOUGHT ALL THE OTHER SHEEP IMMEDIATELY.
HE SAID THAT HE HAD ALWAYS DREAMED OF BEING A SHEPHERD, AND THAT IT WAS A GOOD OMEN.
THAT'S THE WAY IT ALWAYS IS. IT'S CALLED THE PRINCIPLE OF FAVORABILITY.
WHEN YOU PLAY CARDS THE FIRST TIME, YOU ARE ALMOST ALWAYS SURE TO WIN. BEGINNER'S LUCK.
WHY IS THAT?
BECAUSE THERE IS A FORCE THAT WANTS YOU TO REALIZE YOUR PERSONAL LEGEND; IT WHETS YOUR APPETITE WITH A TASTE OF SUCCESS.

THESE ARE VERY GOOD SHEEP.
WHAT ABOUT THIS LAME SHEEP?
HER LAMENESS ISN'T IMPORTANT; THIS SHEEP IS THE MOST INTELLIGENT AND PRODUCES THE MOST WOOL.
SHE IS WORTH TWICE AS MUCH AS THE OTHER ONES.
THEN, I WILL ACCEPT ALL THESE SHEEP.
WHERE IS THE TREASURE?
IT'S IN EGYPT, NEAR THE PYRAMID.
IN ORDER TO FIND THE TREASURE, YOU WILL HAVE TO FOLLOW THE OMENS. GOD HAS PREPARED A PATH FOR EVERYONE TO FOLLOW.

YOU JUST HAVE TO READ THE OMENS THAT HE LEFT FOR YOU.
THE BUTTERFLY TRIGGERED A MEMORY OF THE BOY'S GRANDFATHER. THE OLD MAN HAD ONCE TOLD HIM THAT BUTTERFLIES WERE GOOD OMENS, LIKE CRICKETS AND GRASSHOPPERS, LIKE LIZARDS AND FOUR-LEAF CLOVERS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
JUST AS YOUR GRANDFATHER TAUGHT YOU.

THESE ARE GOOD OMENS.

TAKE THESE.
THEY ARE CALLED URIM AND THUMMIM.
THE BLACK SIGNIFIES YES AND THE WHITE NO.
WHEN YOU ARE UNABLE TO READ THE OMENS, THEY WILL HELP YOU DO SO.
ALWAYS ASK OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS. BUT, IF YOU CAN, TRY TO MAKE YOUR OWN DECISION.
DON'T FORGET THAT EVERYTHING YOU DEAL WITH IS ONLY ONE THING AND NOTHING ELSE. AND DON'T FORGET THE LANGUAGE OF OMENS.
ABOVE ALL ELSE, FOLLOW YOUR PERSONAL LEGEND TO ITS CONCLUSION.

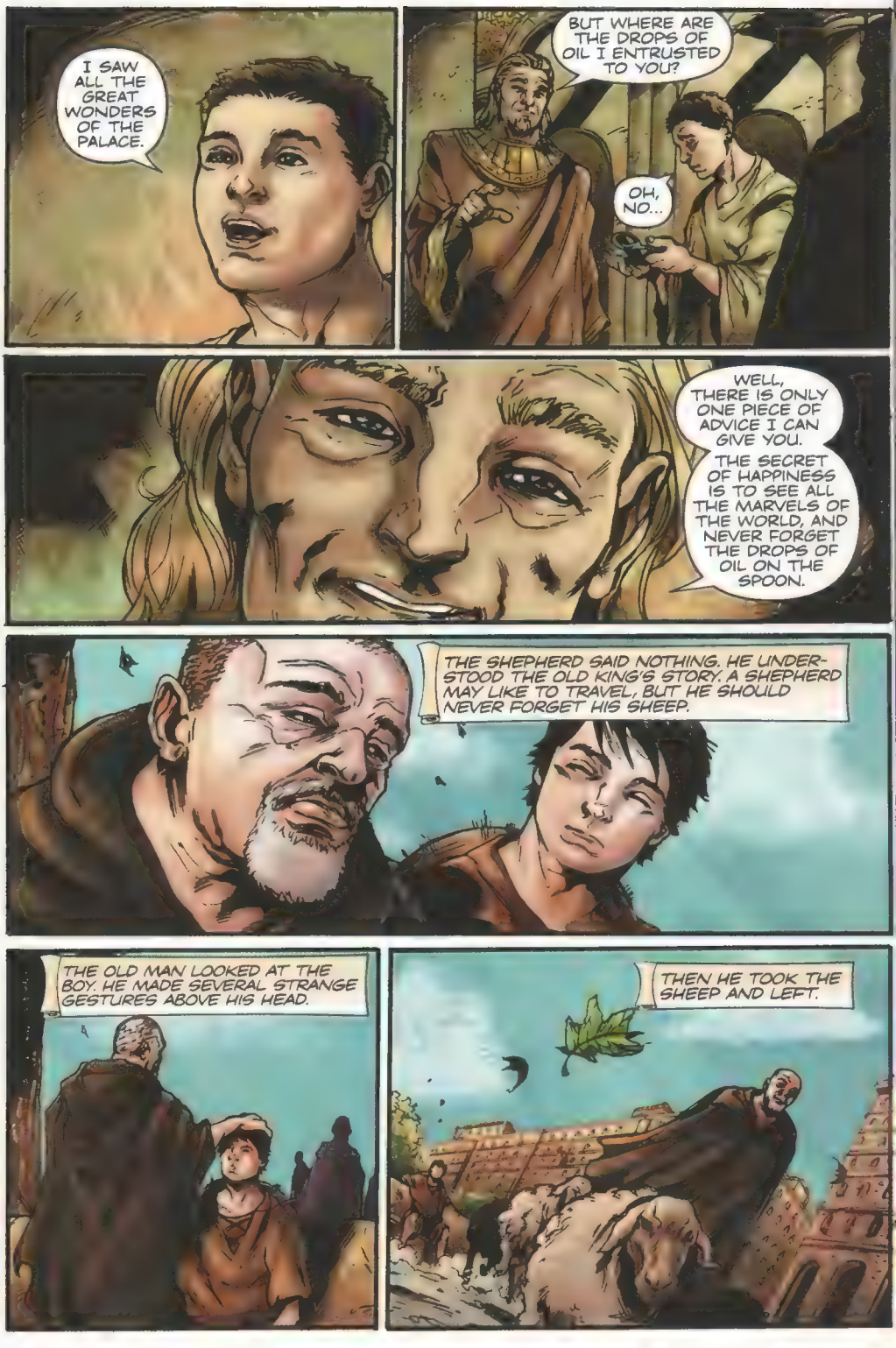
"BEFORE I GO, I WANT TO TELL YOU A LITTLE STORY.
"A CERTAIN SHOPKEEPER SENT HIS SON TO LEARN ABOUT THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS FROM THE WISEST MAN IN THE WORLD."
YOU MUST WALK THROUGH THE DESERT FOR MANY DAYS BEFORE YOU REACH THE HOME OF THE WISE MAN.
GO AND LEARN ALL YOU CAN ABOUT HAPPINESS.
I WILL, FATHER.
"THE LAD WANDERED THROUGH THE DESERT FOR FORTY DAYS...
"...AND FINALLY CAME UPON A BEAUTIFUL CASTLE, HIGH ATOP A MOUNTAIN."
FINALLY!
"IT WAS THERE THAT THE WISE MAN LIVED."

"RATHER THAN FINDING A SAINTLY MAN, THOUGH, OUR HERO, ON ENTERING THE MAIN ROOM OF THE CASTLE, SAW A HIVE OF ACTIVITY:
"TRADESMEN CAME AND WENT, PEOPLE WERE CONVERSING IN THE CORNERS, A SMALL ORCHESTRA WAS PLAYING SOFT MUSIC, AND THERE WAS A TABLE COVERED WITH PLATTERS OF THE MOST DELICIOUS FOOD IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD.

"THE WISE MAN CONVERSED WITH EVERYONE AND THE BOY HAD TO WAIT FOR TWO HOURS BEFORE IT WAS HIS TURN TO BE GIVEN THE MAN'S ATTENTION."
MY FATHER HAS SENT ME TO LEARN THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS.
I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO JUST EXPLAIN THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS TO YOU.
AS YOU CAN SEE I AM A VERY BUSY MAN.
YOU CAN TAKE THAT STAIRWELL THERE AND LOOK AROUND THE CASTLE. RETURN IN TWO HOURS AND WE WILL TALK AGAIN.
I WANT TO ASK YOU TO DO SOMETHING.
YES?
AS YOU WANDER AROUND, CARRY A TEASPOON WITHOUT ALLOWING THE OIL IN IT TO SPILL.
OKAY.

"SO THE BOY BEGAN CLIMBING AND DESCENDING THE MANY STAIRWAYS OF THE PALACE.
"AS HE WALKED FROM ROOM TO ROOM...
"...AND PLACE TO PLACE...
"...THE BOY KEPT HIS EYES ON THE SPOON AND THE OIL.
"AFTER TWO HOURS, HE RETURNED TO THE ROOM WHERE THE WISE MAN WAS."
WELL?
DID YOU SEE THE PERSIAN TAPESTRIES THAT ARE HANGING IN MY DYING HALL?
DID YOU SEE THE GARDEN THAT IT TOOK THE MASTER GARDENER TEN YEARS TO CREATE?

DID YOU NOTICE THE BEAUTIFUL PARCHMENTS IN MY LIBRARY?
I DID NOT.
MY ONLY CONCERN WAS TO NOT SPILL THE OIL.
THEN GO BACK AND OBSERVE THE MARVELS OF MY WORLD.
YOU CANNOT TRUST A MAN IF YOU DON'T KNOW HIS HOUSE.
"THE BOY TOOK THE TIME TO OBSERVE ALL THE THINGS HE HAD MISSED HIS FIRST TIME AROUND.
"HE SAW THE TAPESTRIES ON THE WALLS AND CEILINGS.
"HE SAW THE GARDENS, AND THE MOUNTAIN ALL AROUND HIM, THE BEAUTY OF THE FLOWERS, AND THE TASTE WITH WHICH EVERYTHING HAD BEEN SELECTED.
"HE SAW THE BOOKS AND SCROLLS IN THE GREAT LIBRARY.
SO WHAT DID YOU SEE?


I SAW ALL THE GREAT WONDERS OF THE PALACE.
BUT WHERE ARE THE DROPS OF OIL I ENTRUSTED TO YOU?
OH, NO...
WELL, THERE IS ONLY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE I CAN GIVE YOU.
THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS IS TO SEE ALL THE MARVELS OF THE WORLD, AND NEVER FORGET THE DROPS OF OIL ON THE SPOON.
THE SHEPHERD SAID NOTHING. HE UNDERSTOOD THE OLD KING'S STORY. A SHEPHERD MAY LIKE TO TRAVEL, BUT HE SHOULD NEVER FORGET HIS SHEEP.
THE OLD MAN LOOKED AT THE BOY. HE MADE SEVERAL STRANGE GESTURES ABOVE HIS HEAD.
THEN HE TOOK THE SHEEP AND LEFT.

Later
I WILL NEVER SEE THE BOY AGAIN. IT WAS THE SAME WITH ABRAHAM WHEN I CHARGED HIM THE ONE-TENTH FEE. THAT IS MY WORK.
GODS SHOULD NOT HAVE DESIRES, BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE PERSONAL LEGENDS.
BUT I HOPE DESPERATELY THE BOY WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.
IT'S TOO BAD HE IS GOING TO FORGET MY NAME. I SHOULD HAVE REPEATED IT FOR HIM.
THEN WHEN HE SPOKE ABOUT ME, HE WOULD SAY THAT I AM MELCHIZEDEK, THE KING OF SALEM.
I KNOW IT'S THE VANITY OF VANITIES, AS YOU SAID, MY LORD. BUT AN OLD KING SOMETIMES HAS TO TAKE SOME PRIDE IN HIMSELF.

Hours later
The city of Tangier in Africa
AFRICA IS VERY STRANGE.
IN JUST A FEW HOURS, I HAVE SEEN MEN WALKING HAND-IN-HAND, WOMEN WITH THEIR FACES COVERED, AND PRIESTS WHO CLIMBED TO THE TOPS OF TOWERS TO CHANT-- EVEN AS EVERYONE ABOUT THEM DROPPED TO THEIR KNEES AND PLACED THEIR FOREHEADS ON THE GROUND.

A PRACTICE OF INFIDELS.
IN THE RUSH TO START HIS JOURNEY, THE BOY HAD FORGOTTEN A DETAIL, JUST ONE DETAIL, WHICH COULD KEEP HIM FROM HIS TREASURE FOR A LONG TIME: ONLY ARABIC IS SPOKEN IN THIS COUNTRY.
THE BOY FELT TERRIBLY ALONE.
‹MY FRIEND, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?›
HUH? UH... I DON'T SPEAK ARABIC....
UH...I'D LIKE TO HAVE WHAT THEY ARE HAVING.
‹AH, TEA? HERE YOU GO!›

BLEH!
I PREFER WINE, BUT THAT'S OKAY. SOON I'LL HAVE MY TREASURE AND BE ABLE TO BUY ANY DRINK I WANT.
WHO ARE YOU?
HUH?!
HOW COME YOU SPEAK SPANISH?
ALMOST EVERYONE HERE SPEAKS SPANISH.
WE'RE ONLY TWO HOURS FROM SPAIN.
OH!

SIT DOWN, AND LET ME TREAT YOU TO SOMETHING.
AND ASK FOR A GLASS OF WINE FOR ME.
I HATE THIS TEA.
THERE IS NO WINE IN THIS COUNTRY.
THE RELIGION HERE FORBIDS IT.
I NEED TO GET TO THE PYRAMIDS.
:SIGH:
I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE ME THERE IF YOU CAN. I CAN PAY YOU TO SERVE AS MY GUIDE.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW TO GET THERE?
YOU HAVE TO CROSS THE ENTIRE SAHARA DESERT.

AND TO DO SO, YOU NEED MONEY.
<NO...>
I NEED TO KNOW WHETHER YOU HAVE ENOUGH.
UH... OKAY...
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE...
<LEAVE THE BOY ALONE!>
<STAY OUT OF MY BUSINESS, OLD MAN...>

LET'S GO.
OKAY.
WHA...?
<NO, BOY! DON'T GO WITH HIM!>
<OUT OF THE WAY, OLD MAN!>
UM.
COME ON!

WE'RE LUCKY. HE WANTED YOUR MONEY.
TANGIER IS NOT LIKE THE REST OF AFRICA.
THIS IS A PORT AND IN EVERY PORT THERE ARE THIEVES.
WE COULD GET TO THE PYRAMIDS BY TOMORROW.
WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?
I HAVE TO BUY TWO CAMELS, AND I SHOULD HOLD THE MONEY-- IT'S SAFER THAT WAY.
THE CAMEL MERCHANT IS NEARBY...WE SHOULD GO TO HIM.
I WILL JUST WATCH HIM. I AM STRONGER THAN HIM, SO I WILL BE READY IF HE TRIES ANYTHING FUNNY.

THERE WERE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN THE LARGE PLAZA WHERE THE MARKET WAS HELD.
EVERYWHERE THE BOY LOOKED THERE WERE STALLS WITH ITEMS FOR SALE.
PEOPLE ARGUED AND HAGGLED OVER THE PRICE OF VEGETABLES, DAGGERS, AND CARPETS.
AMAZING!

THIS IS AMAZING, MY FRIEND.
SWORDS, DAGGERS, AND ARMOR!
"WHEN I RETURN FROM EGYPT WITH MY TREASURE, I WILL BUY THAT SWORD."
ASK THE OWNER OF THAT STALL HOW MUCH THE SWORD COSTS.
OH, NO!
THE BOY REALIZED THAT HE HAD BEEN DISTRACTED FOR A FEW MOMENTS, LOOKING AT THE SWORD.
HE LOOKED ALL THROUGHOUT THE MARKET BUT NOWHERE COULD HE FIND HIS NEW COMPANION.
FRIEND?

MAYBE WE GOT SEPARATED BY ACCIDENT.
I SHOULD JUST WAIT RIGHT HERE FOR HIS RETURN.

MAYBE HE IS LOST.
ALLAHU AKBAR.
ALLAHU AKBAR. ALLAHU AKBAR. ALLAHU AKBAR. ALLAHU AKBAR. ASH-HADU AN LA ILAHA ILL-ALLAH. ASH-HADU AN LA ILAHA ILL-ALLAH.
ASH-HADU ANNA MUHAMMAD-AR-RASOOLULLAH. ASH-HADU ANNA MUHAMMAD-AR-RASOOLULLAH. HAYYA 'ALAS-SALAH. HAYYA 'ALAS-SALAH. HAYYA 'ALAL-FALAH. HAYYA 'ALAL-FALAH. ALLAHU AKBAR. ALLAHU AKBAR. LA ILAHA ILL-ALLA.
HUH?
MUST BE THE END OF THE DAY HERE.

AS THE SUN BEGAN ITS DEPARTURE, THE BOY WATCHED UNTIL IT WAS HIDDEN BEHIND THE HOUSES THAT SURROUNDED THE PLAZA.
WHEN THE SUN ROSE THIS MORNING, I HAD SO MUCH.
"I WAS A SHEPHERD WITH SIXTY SHEEP...
"I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING A GIRL.
THIS MORNING WHEN THE SUN ROSE, I KNEW EVERYTHING THAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.
NOW AS THE SUN GOES DOWN, I'M IN A DIFFERENT COUNTRY, A STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND, WHERE I CAN'T SPEAK THE LANGUAGE.

THE BOY WEPT BECAUSE HE FELT GOD WAS UNFAIR, AND BECAUSE THIS WAS THE WAY GOD REPAID THOSE WHO BELIEVED IN THEIR DREAMS.
WHEN I HAD MY SHEEP, I WAS HAPPY, AND I MADE THOSE AROUND ME HAPPY. PEOPLE SAW ME COMING AND WELCOMED ME.
BUT NOW I'M SAD AND ALONE. I'M GOING TO BECOME BITTER AND DISTRUSTFUL OF PEOPLE BECAUSE ONE PERSON BETRAYED ME.
I'M GOING TO HATE THOSE WHO HAVE FOUND THEIR TREASURE BECAUSE I NEVER FOUND MINE.
AND I'M GOING TO HOLD ON TO WHAT LITTLE I HAVE, BECAUSE I'M TOO INSIGNIFICANT TO CONQUER THE WORLD.
THIS IS ALL I OWN IN THE WORLD.

MAYBE I CAN SELL THESE TO BUY A TICKET HOME.
THEY'RE CALLED URIM AND THUMMIM, AND THEY CAN HELP YOU READ THE OMENS.
THE OLD KING SAID THAT WHEN YOU WANT SOMETHING, THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE CONSPIRES TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE IT.
LET ME SEE IF THESE WORK.
IS THE OLD MAN'S BLESSING STILL UPON ME?
IT SAYS YES.

AM I GOING TO FIND MY TREASURE?
OH...
THERE WERE CERTAIN THINGS ONE SHOULDN'T ASK ABOUT, SO AS NOT TO FLEE FROM ONE'S PERSONAL LEGEND.
I PROMISED THAT I WOULD MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS.
I'M AN ADVENTURER, LOOKING FOR TREASURE.

ZZZZZZZZ...
BOY!
NO SLEEPING IN THE PLAZA.
HUH-- OH, SORRY!
IT'S OKAY THAT I DON'T HAVE MY SHEEP. I'M ON A TREASURE HUNT, AFTER ALL.

ASALAAM ALAIKUM.
HELLO.
THIS CANDY MERCHANT ISN'T MAKING CANDY SO THAT LATER HE CAN TRAVEL OR MARRY A SHOPKEEPER'S DAUGHTER. HE'S DOING IT CAUSE IT'S WHAT HE WANTS TO DO.
LIKE THE OLD MAN, I CAN SENSE WHEN A PERSON IS NEAR OR FAR FROM HIS PERSONAL LEGEND.
IT'S VERY EASY, YET I'VE NEVER DONE IT BEFORE.

YUM!
GOODBYE, MY FRIEND!
THERE MUST BE A LANGUAGE THAT DOESN'T DEPEND ON WORDS.
EVEN THOUGH I SPOKE SPANISH AND THE CANDY MERCHANT SPOKE ARABIC, WE UNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER PERFECTLY.
IF I CAN LEARN TO UNDERSTAND THIS LANGUAGE WITHOUT WORDS, I CAN LEARN TO UNDERSTAND THE WORLD.
I WILL WALK THESE STREETS RELAXED AND UNHURRIED, SO I WILL BE ABLE TO READ THE OMENS.
IT WILL REQUIRE LOTS OF PATIENCE, BUT SHEPHERDS KNOW OF PATIENCE. I CAN APPLY WHAT I LEARNED AS A SHEPHERD TO MY QUEST TO FIND MY TREASURE.
THE OLD MAN WAS RIGHT. EVERYTHING IS ONE.

The crystal merchant's shop
I HAVE BEEN HERE FOR THIRTY YEARS.
BUSINESS ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE. EVERYONE HAS GONE TO CEUTA.
BUT WHAT CAN I DO? IT'S TOO LATE TO CHANGE, AND ALL I KNOW HOW TO DO IS SELL CRYSTAL.
HMM...

HELLO?
I CAN CLEAN THOSE GLASSES IN THE WINDOW, IF YOU WANT.
THE WAY THEY LOOK NOW, NOBODY IS GOING TO WANT TO BUY THEM.
HMMM...
IN EXCHANGE, YOU CAN GIVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT.
I WON'T BE NEEDING MY JACKET FOR THE DESERT SO I CAN USE IT TO CLEAN THESE CRYSTALS.

HELLO!
WELCOME TO THE SHOP!
I WILL TAKE THAT TEA SET YOU HAVE THERE.
GOOD CHOICE, MY FRIEND.
THIS IS REALLY NICE CRYSTAL.
AND NOW I'M DONE.

SO CAN I HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT?
LET'S GO AND HAVE SOME LUNCH.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO ANY CLEANING.
THE KORAN REQUIRES ME TO FEED A HUNGRY PERSON.
WELL THEN, WHY DID YOU LET ME DO IT?
BECAUSE THE CRYSTAL WAS DIRTY.
AND BOTH YOU AND I NEEDED TO CLEANSE OUR MINDS OF NEGATIVE THOUGHTS.
I'D LIKE YOU TO WORK IN MY SHOP. TWO CUSTOMERS CAME IN TODAY WHILE YOU WERE WORKING, AND THAT'S A GOOD OMEN.

DO YOU WANT TO WORK FOR ME?
I CAN WORK FOR THE REST OF TODAY. I'LL EVEN WORK ALL NIGHT UNTIL DAWN, AND I'LL CLEAN EVERY PIECE OF CRYSTAL IN YOUR SHOP. I NEED TO GET TO EGYPT.
EVEN IF YOU CLEANED MY CRYSTAL FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR, EVEN IF YOU EARNED A GOOD COMMISSION SELLING EVERY PIECE, YOU WOULD STILL HAVE TO BORROW MONEY TO GET TO EGYPT.
THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF KILOMETERS OF DESERT BETWEEN HERE AND THERE.
:SIGH:
I CAN GIVE YOU THE MONEY YOU NEED TO GET BACK TO YOUR COUNTRY, MY SON.
I NEED MONEY TO BUY SOME SHEEP.

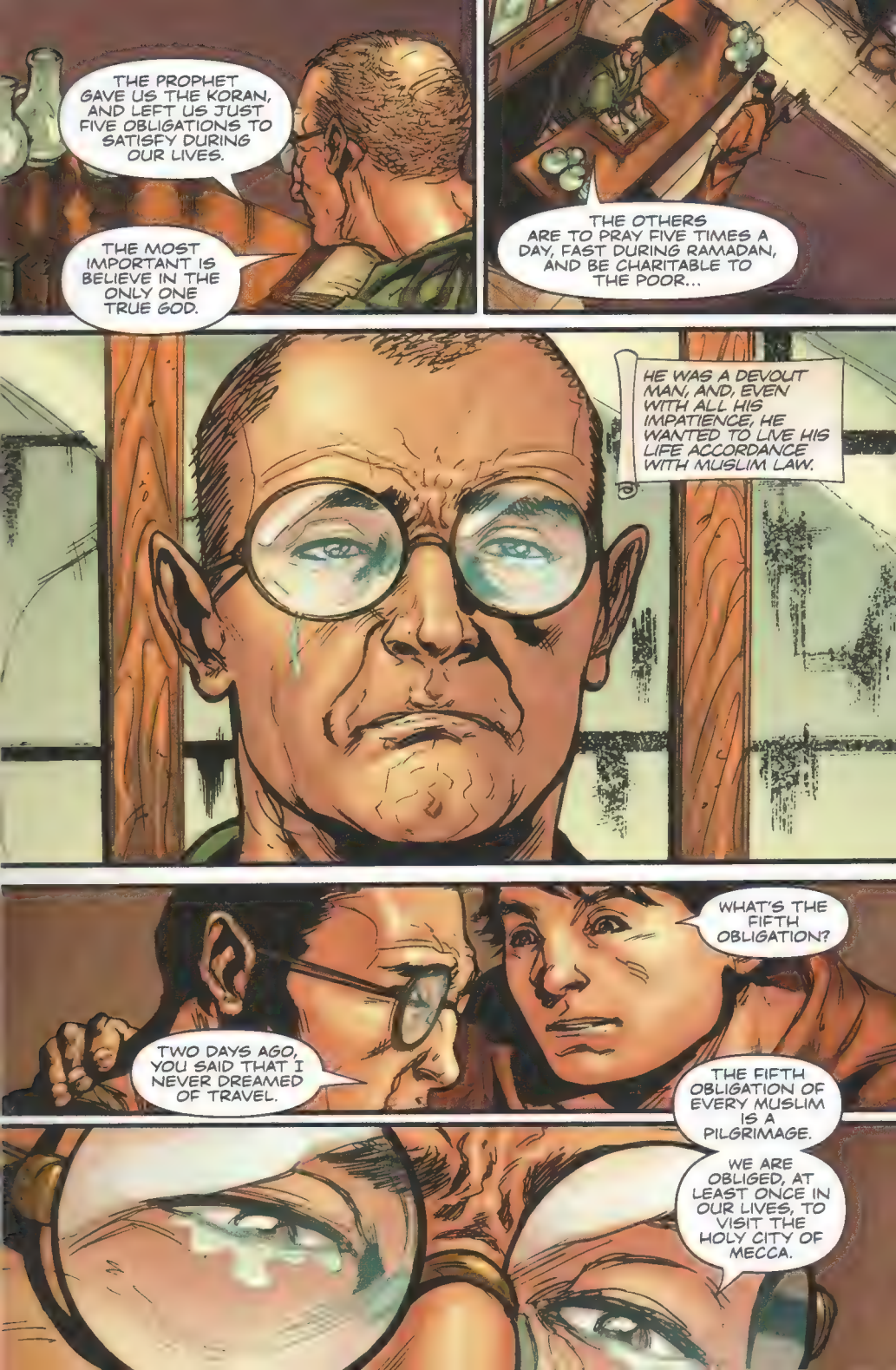
One month later.
DON'T BREAK THOSE GLASSES. BE GENTLE WITH THEM.
I AM ALWAYS CAREFUL WITH THEM, SIR.
JUST MAKE SURE THEY DON'T BREAK.
IF I CONTINUE THIS PACE AT THE CRYSTAL SHOP IT WILL TAKE A YEAR TO SAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY SOME SHEEP.
MAYBE IT'S TIME TO TELL HIM OF MY IDEA.
EXCUSE ME, SIR.
YES?
I'D LIKE TO BUILD A DISPLAY CASE FOR THE CRYSTAL.
I NEVER HAD ONE BEFORE.
WE COULD PLACE IT OUTSIDE, AND ATTRACT THOSE PEOPLE WHO PASS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL.
PEOPLE WILL PASS BY AND BUMP INTO IT, AND PIECES WILL BE BROKEN.
WELL, WHEN I TOOK MY SHEEP THROUGH THE FIELDS SOME OF THEM MIGHT HAVE DIED IF WE HAD COME UPON A SNAKE.

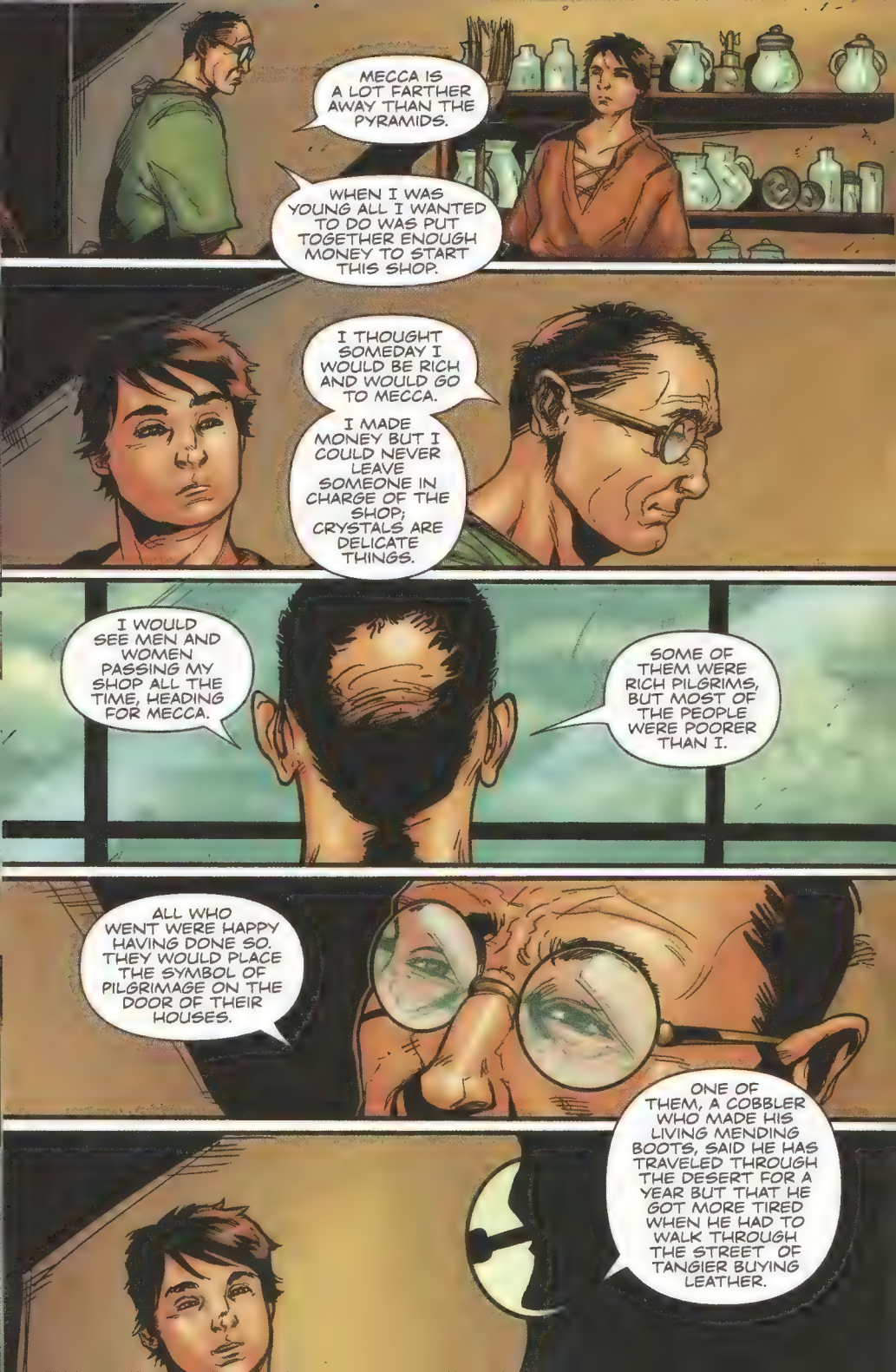
BUT THAT'S THE WAY LIFE IS WITH SHEEP AND WITH SHEPHERDS.
I WILL TAKE THESE THREE EXQUISITE GLASSES.
YOU HAVE A GREAT EYE. LET ME WRAP THEM UP FOR YOU.
IT IS LIKE OLD TIMES ALL OVER AGAIN. THE SHOP IS DOING VERY WELL.
DO I IGNORE THESE OMENS?
ENJOY THE CRYSTAL, MY FRIEND.
I SHALL.
BUSINESS HAS REALLY IMPROVED.
I'M DOING MUCH BETTER, AND SOON YOU'LL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO YOUR SHEEP.

WHY ASK MORE OUT OF LIFE?
BECAUSE WE HAVE TO RESPOND TO OMENS.
HE HAS NEVER MET THE KING. HE PROBABLY DOESN'T KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
THE KING HAD CALLED IT THE PRINCIPLE OF FAVORABILITY, BEGINNER'S LUCK. LIFE WANTS YOU TO ACHIEVE YOUR PERSONAL LEGEND.
WHY DID YOU WANT TO GET TO THE PYRAMIDS?
BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS HEARD ABOUT THEM.
I DON'T KNOW ANYONE AROUND HERE WHO WOULD WANT TO CROSS THE DESERT JUST TO SEE THE PYRAMIDS.
THEY'RE JUST A PILE OF STONES. YOU COULD BUILD ONE IN YOUR BACK YARD.

YOU'VE NEVER HAD A DREAM OF TRAVEL?
LET ME THINK ON THIS A BIT AND WE WILL SPEAK OF IT AGAIN.
FOR NOW GO HELP THAT WOMAN.
CAN I HELP YOU?
YES.
THE MERCHANT AND THE SHEPHERD WOULD NOT SPEAK AGAIN ON THE MATTER FOR TWO DAYS.

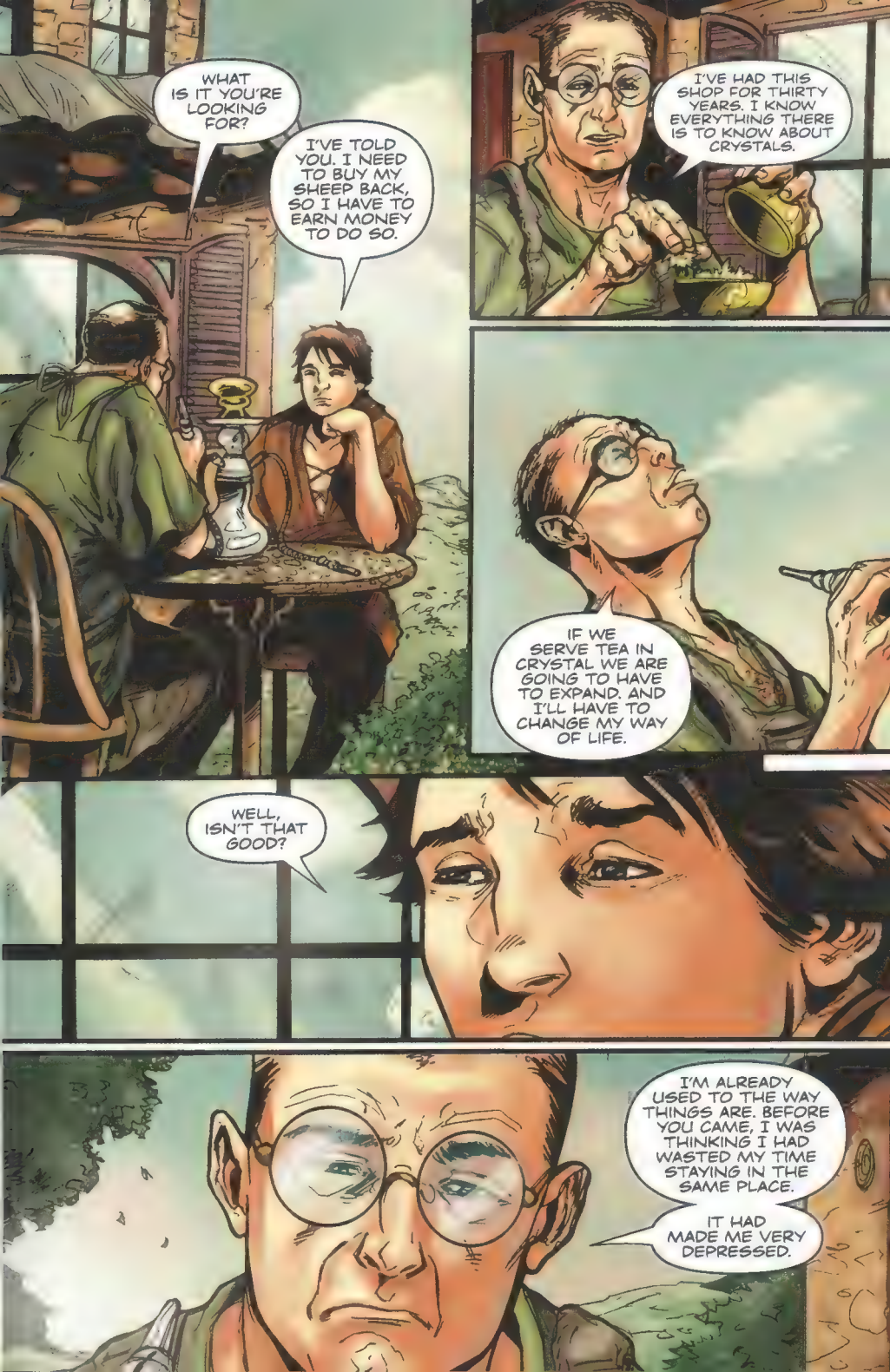
Two days later.
I HAVE GIVEN SOME THOUGHT ABOUT THE DISPLAY FOR OUTSIDE THE SHOP.
I DON'T MUCH LIKE CHANGE.
YOU AND I AREN'T LIKE HASSAN, THAT RICH MERCHANT.
IF HE MAKES A BUYING MISTAKE IT DOESN'T AFFECT HIM MUCH. BUT WE TWO HAVE TO LIVE WITH OUR MISTAKES.
WHY DID YOU THINK WE SHOULD HAVE THE DISPLAY?
I WANT TO GET BACK TO MY SHEEP FASTER.
WE HAVE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE WHEN LUCK IS ON OUR SIDE, AND DO AS MUCH AS TO HELP IT AS IT'S DOING TO HELP US.
IT'S CALLED THE PRINCIPLE OF FAVORABILITY. OR AS SOME CALL IT, BEGINNER'S LUCK.


THE PROPHET GAVE US THE KORAN, AND LEFT US JUST FIVE OBLIGATIONS TO SATISFY DURING OUR LIVES.
THE MOST IMPORTANT IS BELIEVE IN THE ONLY ONE TRUE GOD.
THE OTHERS ARE TO PRAY FIVE TIMES A DAY, FAST DURING RAMADAN, AND BE CHARITABLE TO THE POOR...
HE WAS A DEVOUT MAN, AND, EVEN WITH ALL HIS IMPATIENCE, HE WANTED TO LIVE HIS LIFE ACCORDANCE WITH MUSLIM LAW.
WHAT'S THE FIFTH OBLIGATION?
TWO DAYS AGO, YOU SAID THAT I NEVER DREAMED OF TRAVEL.
THE FIFTH OBLIGATION OF EVERY MUSLIM IS A PILGRIMAGE.
WE ARE OBLIGED, AT LEAST ONCE IN OUR LIVES, TO VISIT THE HOLY CITY OF MECCA.


MECCA IS A LOT FARTHER AWAY THAN THE PYRAMIDS.
WHEN I WAS YOUNG ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS PUT TOGETHER ENOUGH MONEY TO START THIS SHOP.
I THOUGHT SOMEDAY I WOULD BE RICH AND WOULD GO TO MECCA.
I MADE MONEY BUT I COULD NEVER LEAVE SOMEONE IN CHARGE OF THE SHOP; CRYSTALS ARE DELICATE THINGS.
I WOULD SEE MEN AND WOMEN PASSING MY SHOP ALL THE TIME, HEADING FOR MECCA.
SOME OF THEM WERE RICH PILGRIMS, BUT MOST OF THE PEOPLE WERE POORER THAN I.
ALL WHO WENT WERE HAPPY HAVING DONE SO. THEY WOULD PLACE THE SYMBOL OF PILGRIMAGE ON THE DOOR OF THEIR HOUSES.
ONE OF THEM, A COBBLER WHO MADE HIS LIVING MENDING BOOTS, SAID HE HAS TRAVELED THROUGH THE DESERT FOR A YEAR BUT THAT HE GOT MORE TIRED WHEN HE HAD TO WALK THROUGH THE STREET OF TANGIER BUYING LEATHER.

WELL, WHY DON'T YOU GO TO MECCA NOW?
BECAUSE IT'S THE THOUGHT OF MECCA THAT KEEPS ME ALIVE.
YOU DREAM ABOUT SHEEP AND PYRAMIDS, BUT YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO REALIZE YOUR DREAMS.
I JUST WANT TO DREAM ABOUT MECCA.
I KNOW ALL I WANT TO SEE AND DO THERE BUT I FEAR IF I GO IT WILL BE A DISAPPOINTMENT. SO I JUST PREFER TO DREAM ABOUT IT.
WITH THAT SAID, I CANNOT STAND IN YOUR WAY.
YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO GET STARTED ON THE DISPLAY.
I WILL GET STARTED RIGHT AWAY!
THANK YOU, MY FRIEND.

Two months later.
I COULD BUY SIXTY SHEEP WITH ALL THE MONEY I HAVE MADE WITH THE CRYSTAL MERCHANT. WITH A LITTLE MORE TIME I COULD HAVE DOUBLED MY FLOCK.
YOU CAN NEVER FIND A GOOD TEASHOP IN THIS PART OF THE CITY.
WE CAN JUST WAIT UNTIL WE HEAD DOWN THE HILL.
I GUESS WE HAVE TO.
OMENS ARE EVERYWHERE AS THE KING HAD SAID.
I HAVE ANOTHER IDEA...
...LET'S SELL TEA TO THE PEOPLE WHO CLIMB THE HILL.
LOTS OF SHOPS SELL TEA AROUND HERE.
WE COULD SELL IT IN CRYSTAL GLASSES. THE PEOPLE WILL ENJOY THE TEA AND WANT TO BUY THE GLASSES.
I HAVE BEEN TOLD BEAUTY IS A GREAT SEDUCER OF MEN.
I WILL THINK ON THIS.


WHAT IS IT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
I'VE TOLD YOU. I NEED TO BUY MY SHEEP BACK, SO I HAVE TO EARN MONEY TO DO SO.
I'VE HAD THIS SHOP FOR THIRTY YEARS. I KNOW EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT CRYSTALS.
IF WE SERVE TEA IN CRYSTAL WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO EXPAND. AND I'LL HAVE TO CHANGE MY WAY OF LIFE.
WELL, ISN'T THAT GOOD?
I'M ALREADY USED TO THE WAY THINGS ARE. BEFORE YOU CAME, I WAS THINKING I HAD WASTED MY TIME STAYING IN THE SAME PLACE.
IT HAD MADE ME VERY DEPRESSED.

YOU HAVE BEEN A REAL BLESSING TO ME.
YOU HAVE MADE ME UNDERSTAND SOMETHING I DIDN'T SEE BEFORE: EVERY BLESSING IGNORED BECOMES A CURSE.
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING ELSE IN LIFE.
BUT YOU ARE FORCING ME TO LOOK AT WEALTH AND AT A HORIZON I HAVE NEVER KNOWN.
NOW I HAVE SEEN THEM, AND NOW THAT I SEE HOW IMMENSE MY POSSIBILITIES ARE, I'M GOING TO FEEL WORSE THAN WHEN YOU ARRIVED.
BECAUSE I KNOW THE THINGS I SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH, AND I DON'T WANT TO DO SO.
IT WAS GOOD I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO THAT BAKER.

THERE ARE PROBABLY OTHER THINGS THE SHEEP CAN'T TEACH ME. ALL THEY EVER DO, REALLY, IS LOOK FOR FOOD AND WATER.
BUT MAYBE IT WASN'T THAT THEY WERE TEACHING ME, BUT THAT I WAS LEARNING FROM THEM.
I AM NOT ANGRY AT YOU. LET ME THINK ON YOUR IDEA.
OKAY.
MAKTUB.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
YOU WOULD HAVE TO HAVE BEEN BORN AN ARAB TO UNDERSTAND. BUT IN YOUR LANGUAGE IT WOULD BE SOMETHING LIKE "IT IS WRITTEN."
YOU CAN START SELLING TEA IN THE CRYSTAL GLASSES STARTING TOMORROW.
SOMETIMES, THERE'S JUST NO WAY TO HOLD BACK THE RIVER.

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS CHOOSE TO SHOP FOR YOUR PARTIES IN THIS PART OF THE CITY? THERE ARE SHOPS JUST AS GOOD IN THE MARKET PLACE.
THE SHOPS HERE ARE OLDER AND THE MERCHANDISE IS BETTER. I WILL BUY YOU SOME TEA. MAYBE IT WILL PUT YOU IN A BETTER MOOD.
MINT TEA
LOOK, THE CRYSTAL MERCHANT SELLS MINT TEA. THAT SOUNDS QUITE ENJOYABLE.
MY WIFE NEVER THOUGHT TO SERVE TEA IN CRYSTAL CUPS.
I THINK THIS WOULD BE WONDERFUL FOR YOUR DINNER PARTY TONIGHT. IT WILL IMPRESS THE GUESTS.
I HAVE HEARD TEA IS MORE DELICIOUS WHEN SERVED IN CRYSTAL, BECAUSE THE AROMA IS RETAINED.
THIS WILL BE WONDERFUL; I HAVE HEARD THAT IN THE ORIENT IT IS TRADITIONAL TO USE CRYSTAL GLASSES FOR TEA BECAUSE IT HAS MAGICAL PROPERTIES.
BEFORE LONG, THE NEWS SPREAD, AND A GREAT MANY PEOPLE BEGAN TO CLIMB THE HILL TO SEE THE SHOP THAT WAS DOING NEW THINGS IN A TRADE THAT WAS SO OLD.
BUSINESS PICKED UP SO MUCH THE MERCHANT WOULD HAVE TO HIRE TWO MORE EMPLOYEES.
AND, IN THAT WAY, THE MONTHS PASSED.

Nine months later
Dawn
TODAY IS THE DAY.
I BETTER HAVE SOME BREAKFAST BEFORE I GO.
IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I ARRIVED HERE.
I HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH FROM THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY AND FROM WORKING IN THE CRYSTAL SHOP.
OH, THIS IS GOING TO TASTE GREAT.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

I HAVE ENOUGH TO BUY MYSELF A HUNDRED AND TWENTY SHEEP.
GOOD MORNING, MY FRIEND.
GOOD MORNING.
I'M LEAVING TODAY.
I HAVE THE MONEY I NEED TO BUY MY SHEEP. AND YOU HAVE THE MONEY YOU NEED TO GO TO MECCA.
WILL YOU GIVE ME YOUR BLESSING?
YOU HAVE HELPED ME.
I AM PROUD OF YOU.
YOU HAVE BROUGHT NEW LIFE TO MY CRYSTAL SHOP.
BUT WE BOTH KNOW THAT I AM NOT GOING TO MECCA AND YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BUY YOUR SHEEP.
WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
MAKTUB.
GO WITH GOD.

I WONDER WHAT I SHOULD TAKE.
I WON'T NEED MY OLD SHEPHERD POUCH. MAYBE I CAN GIVE IT AWAY.
HMM?
URIM AND THUMMIM.
SEEING THE STONES MADE THE BOY THINK OF THE OLD KING AND WHAT HE HAD SAID.
NEVER STOP DREAMING.
FOLLOW THE OMENS.
I HAVE WORKED HARD THIS WHOLE YEAR AND THE OMENS HAVE BEEN TELLING ME IT'S TIME TO GO.

THE OLD KING SAID THAT WHEN YOU WANT SOMETHING, THE UNIVERSE CONSPIRES TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE IT.
BUT HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT GETTING ROBBED, OR ABOUT THE ENDLESS DESERT.
OR ABOUT PEOPLE WHO KNOW WHAT THEIR PERSONAL LEGEND IS BUT DON'T WANT TO REALIZE THEM.
THE OLD KING DIDN'T TELL ME THAT THE PYRAMIDS WERE JUST A PILE OF STONES, OR THAT ANYONE COULD BUILD ONE IN HIS BACKYARD.
AND HE HAD FORGOT TO MENTION THAT, WHEN YOU HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY A FLOCK LARGER THAN THE ONE YOU HAD BEFORE, YOU SHOULD BUY IT.
THIS CITY IS NO LONGER STRANGE TO ME, AND IT HAS LEFT ME FEELING LIKE I CAN CONQUER THE WORLD.

THE SHOP IS EXTREMELY BUSY TODAY.
HMM...
FROM WHERE HE STOOD, THE BOY SAW FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT THE OLD MERCHANT'S HAIR WAS VERY MUCH LIKE THAT OF THE OLD KING.
HE REMEMBERED THE SMILE OF THE CANDY SELLER, ON HIS FIRST DAY IN TANGIER. IT ALSO REMINDED HIM OF THE OLD KING.
IT'S LIKE THE OLD KING HAD BEEN HERE AND LEFT HIS MARK. AND NONE OF THESE PEOPLE HAD EVER MET THE OLD KING.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE KING SAID THAT HE ALWAYS APPEARED TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE TRYING TO REALIZE THEIR PERSONAL LEGEND.

I'M GOING BACK TO THE FIELDS THAT I KNOW TO TAKE CARE OF MY FLOCK AGAIN.
THE BOY HAD WORKED FOR A YEAR TO MAKE ENOUGH MONEY TO GET BACK TO SPAIN AND BUY HIS FLOCK, BUT MINUTE BY MINUTE, THAT WAS BECOMING LESS IMPORTANT.
I CAN ALWAYS GO BACK TO BEING A SHEPHERD. I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW THAT'S DONE.
BUT THIS MIGHT BE MY ONLY CHANCE TO GO TO THE PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT.
I KNOW WHY I WANT TO GET BACK TO MY SHEEP; THEY'RE NO LONGER A PROBLEM, AND THEY CAN BE GOOD FRIENDS.
HELLO, ANWAR.
MY FRIEND, HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
I HAVE BEEN WELL.

I AM GOING ON A JOURNEY TO EGYPT.
MAY ALLAH BE WITH YOU.
THANK YOU, MY FRIEND.
ON THE OTHER HAND, I DON'T KNOW IF THE DESERT CAN BE A FRIEND, AND IT'S IN THE DESERT THAT I HAVE TO SEARCH FOR MY TREASURE.
IF I DON'T FIND IT, I CAN ALWAYS GO HOME.
MAYBE I CAN GO SEE THAT CRYSTAL SUPPLIER AND FIND OUT HOW MUCH IT COST TO CROSS THE DESERT.
MAYBE THE WORLD HAS OTHER HIDDEN TREASURES, BUT I HAVE A DREAM, AND I MET WITH A KING. THAT JUST DOESN'T HAPPEN TO ANYONE.
HOW FAR CAN EGYPT ACTUALLY BE?

Later
TEN YEARS AT THE UNIVERSITY, AND HERE I AM IN A CORRAL.
IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR MY FRIEND'S STORIES, I WOULDN'T BE SEEKING OUT THE ALCHEMIST OF AL-FAYOUM OASIS.
HELLO.
WHERE ARE YOU BOUND?
I'M GOING INTO THE DESERT.
I NEED TO REVIEW ALL THE THINGS I KNOW. THE ALCHEMIST IS SURE TO PUT ME THROUGH A TEST.
OH, GOOD, HE READS SPANISH. MY SPANISH IS BETTER THAN MY ARABIC. IT WILL BE GOOD TO HAVE SOMEONE TO TALK TO.

THAT'S STRANGE; I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO GET PAST THESE FIRST FEW PAGES. IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE I GOT THIS BOOK.
UH HUH.
HE SEEMS UNFRIENDLY.
IS THAT URIM AND THUMMIM?
THEY ARE NOT FOR SALE.
THEY AREN'T WORTH MUCH.
THEY WERE GIVEN TO ME BY A KING.
DID YOU SAY A KING?
I GUESS YOU DON'T THINK THAT A KING WOULD TALK TO A SHEPHERD.
NOT AT ALL. IT WAS SHEPHERDS WHO WERE FIRST TO RECOGNIZE A KING THE REST OF THE WORLD REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE.
MAYBE THIS IS AN OMEN.

WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT OMENS?
EVERYTHING IN LIFE IS AN OMEN.
THERE IS A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE, UNDERSTOOD BY EVERYBODY, THAT HAS BEEN FORGOTTEN. I AM TRAVELING TO THE OASIS TO TALK TO A MAN WHO KNOWS ITS SECRET. AN ALCHEMIST.
YOU'RE IN LUCK, YOU TWO. THERE'S A CARAVAN LEAVING TODAY FOR AL-FAYOUM.
BUT I'M GOING TO EGYPT.
AL-FAYOUM IS IN EGYPT. WHAT KIND OF ARAB ARE YOU?
THAT'S A GOOD LUCK OMEN.
I'M LOOKING FOR A TREASURE.
IN A WAY, SO AM I.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT ALCHEMY IS.

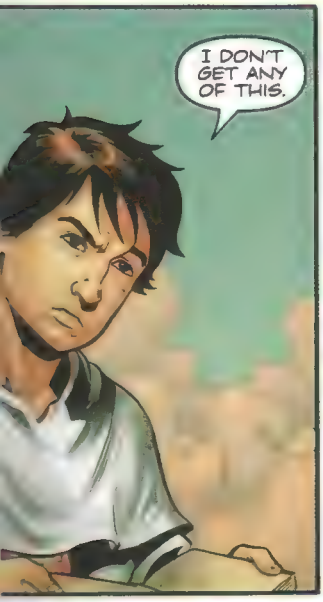
I'M THE LEADER OF THE CARAVAN. I HOLD THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH FOR EVERY PERSON I TAKE WITH ME. THE DESERT IS A CAPRICIOUS LADY, AND SOMETIMES SHE DRIVES ME CRAZY.
THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE HERE, AND EACH HAS HIS OWN GOD. BUT THE ONLY GOD I SERVE IS ALLAH, AND IN HIS NAME I WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO WIN OUT OVER THE DESERT.
BUT I WANT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU TO SWEAR BY THE GOD YOU BELIEVE IN THAT YOU WILL FOLLOW MY ORDERS NO MATTER WHAT.
IN THE DESERT, DISOBEDIENCE MEANS DEATH.

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS COINCIDENCE.
I AM HERE BECAUSE A FRIEND OF MINE HEARD OF AN ARAB WHO...
THE CARAVAN BEGAN TO MOVE, AND IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO HEAR WHAT THE ENGLISHMAN WAS SAYING.
THE CLOSER ONE GETS TO THE REALIZING HIS PERSONAL LEGEND, THE MORE THAT PERSONAL LEGEND BECOMES HIS TRUE REASON FOR BEING.
THE CARAVAN MOVED TOWARD THE EAST.
EVERYONE IS SO QUIET.
I HAVE CROSSED THE DESERT MANY TIMES.
BUT THE DESERT IS SO HUGE, AND THE HORIZON SO DISTANT, THAT THEY MAKE A PERSON FEEL SMALL, AND AS IF HE SHOULD REMAIN SILENT.

SOMETIMES MEN IN HOODS WOULD APPEAR TO RELAY WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE DESERT.
THERE ARE RUMORS OF A TRIBAL WAR.
ARE WE IN DANGER?
ONCE YOU GET INTO THE DESERT, THERE'S NO GOING BACK.
AND WHEN YOU CAN'T GO BACK YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE BEST WAY TO MOVE FORWARD.
THE REST IS UP TO ALLAH, INCLUDING THE DANGER.
MAKTUB!
YOU SHOULD PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE CARAVAN.
AND YOU SHOULD READ MORE BOOKS ABOUT THE WORLD.

THE TRAVELERS ADOPTED A PRACTICE OF ARRANGING THEIR TENTS AND ANIMALS IN A CIRCLE.
THE LEADERS ALSO BEGAN TO POST ARMED SENTRIES ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CAMP AS A PRECAUTION.
THE SOUL OF THE WORLD IS THE PRINCIPLE THAT GOVERNS ALL THINGS.
IF EITHER OF US HAD JOINED THIS CARAVAN BASED ONLY ON PERSONAL COURAGE, BUT WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING THAT LANGUAGE, THIS JOURNEY WOULD HAVE BEEN SO MUCH MORE DIFFICULT.
THAT IS THE MAGIC OF OMENS.
I HAVE SEEN HOW THE SOUL OF THE CARAVAN SPEAKS TO THE SOUL OF THE DESERT.
I BETTER READ YOUR BOOKS.
I'D BETTER PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE CARAVAN.

THE ONE THING THAT SEEMED REPEATED WAS THE BELIEF THAT ALL THINGS ARE MANIFESTATIONS OF ONE THING ONLY.
THEY WERE STRANGE BOOKS.


I DON'T GET ANY OF THIS.

HE LEARNED OF THE EMERALD TABLET, THE MOST IMPORTANT TEXT IN ALCHEMY. ALL THE BOOKS HE READ SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO HELP THE READER TO UNDERSTAND THAT ONE GREAT TEXT.

HE LEARNED OF THE SOUL OF THE WORLD WHICH HELPED ONE SPEAK THE LANGUAGE EVERYONE UNDERSTOOD.
CAN'T YOU JUST OBSERVE MEN AND OMENS IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE THAT EVERYTHING SPEAKS??

YOU HAVE A MANIA FOR SIMPLIFYING EVERYTHING.
ALCHEMY IS A SERIOUS DISCIPLINE. YOU MUST FOLLOW EVERYTHING THE MASTERS DID EXACTLY.

WHY IS EVERYTHING SO COMPLICATED?
SO THAT THOSE WHO HAVE THE PATIENCE FOR UNDERSTANDING CAN UNDERSTAND.
THAT'S WHY I AM HERE. I HAVE THE DEDICATION TO SEEK OUT AN ALCHEMIST TO HELP ME WITH MY ALCHEMY.
I'M GOING TO GO BACK TO WATCHING THE CARAVAN BUT I LEARNED NOTHING NEW.
THE WAR HAS BEGUN.
WE MIGHT NOT MAKE IT TO THE OASIS.
THE TALK OF WAR IS GETTING MORE AND MORE FREQUENT.

I AM DONE WITH THE BOOKS.
DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING?
THE BOY EXPLAINED ALL HE LEARNED.
BUT THE ENGLISHMAN WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT NONE OF THE SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS HAD MADE ANY IMPRESSION ON THE BOY.
HIS SOUL MUST BE TOO PRIMITIVE TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUE MEANING OF ALCHEMY.
GO BACK TO WATCHING THE CARAVAN.
THAT DIDN'T TEACH ME ANYTHING.
EVERYONE HAS HIS OR HER OWN WAY OF LEARNING THINGS. HIS WAY ISN'T THE SAME AS MINE.
WE ARE BOTH ON THE QUEST FOR OUR PERSONAL LEGEND AND I RESPECT HIM FOR THIS.

THE CARAVAN TRAVELLED DAY AND NIGHT.
WE WILL BE VERY LUCKY TO REACH THE OASIS. THE WAR HAS ALREADY BEGUN BETWEEN TRIBES.
I DON'T LIVE IN THE PAST OR FUTURE. I'M INTERESTED IN ONLY THE PRESENT.
LIFE WILL BE PARTY FOR YOU, A GRAND BANQUET, BECAUSE LIFE IS THE MOMENT WE ARE LIVING RIGHT NOW.
IT'S THE OASIS-- LOOK!

THE BOY AWOKE AS THE SUN ROSE.
THEY HAD REACHED THE OASIS.
WE HAVE DONE IT! WE'VE REACHED THE OASIS.
PEOPLE WERE SHOUTING AT THE NEW ARRIVALS WITH EXCITEMENT.
WELCOME!
THANK YOU!
WELCOME, MY FRIEND!
THANK YOU.

THE TIMES RUSH PAST, AND SO DO THE CARAVANS.
HE IS WITH THEM.
THE MAN WHO I WILL TEACH SOME OF MY SECRETS HAS ARRIVED.
I DON'T KNOW THE MAN YET, BUT I WILL RECOGNIZE HIM WHEN HE APPEARS.
I HOPE HE IS AS CAPABLE AS MY LAST APPRENTICE.
I DON'T KNOW WHY THESE THINGS HAVE TO BE TRANSMITTED BY WORD OF MOUTH.
GOD REVEALS HIS SECRETS TO ALL HIS CREATIONS.
SOON I WILL SEE IF HE HAS THE COURAGE TO CONTINUE HIS QUEST.

IT LOOKS LIKE "A THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS."
THE RULES OF WAR STATE THAT EVERYONE HAS TO HAND OVER HIS WEAPONS UNTIL WE LEAVE THE OASIS.
THESE ARE THE RULES OF WAR.
WHAT?!?
YOU HAVE A GUN?
IT HELPED ME TO TRUST IN PEOPLE.
I CANNOT BE HASTY OR IMPATIENT IF I WANT TO GET TO MY TREASURE. I HAVE TO LOOK FOR THE OMENS.
I WILL EAT WHEN IT'S TIME TO EAT.
AND MOVE ALONG WHEN IT'S TIME TO MOVE ALONG.

Two days later
WE'VE WASTED AN ENTIRE DAY AND WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND HIM YET.
MAYBE WE BETTER ASK SOMEONE?
GOOD AFTERNOON, MA'AM. I'M TRYING TO FIND WHERE THE ALCHEMIST LIVES HERE AT THE OASIS.
I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT IS.
YOU MUST NOT TALK TO WOMEN DRESSED IN BLACK-- THEY ARE MARRIED AND YOU SHOULD RESPECT TRADITION.
I NEVER HEARD OF THE ALCHEMIST BEFORE. MAYBE NO ONE HERE HAS EITHER.
THAT'S IT. WE SHOULD ASK WHO CURES PEOPLE'S ILLNESSES.
ASK THIS MAN WHO IS APPROACHING.
DO YOU KNOW SOME-ONE WHO CURES ILLNESSES?
ALLAH CURES OUR ILLNESSES.

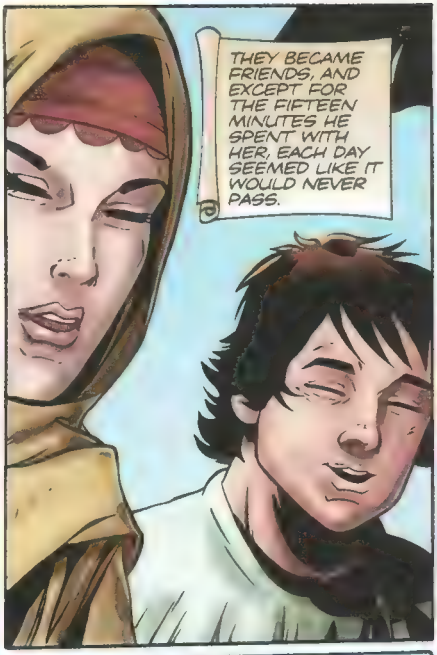
DO NOT BOTHER ME WITH YOUR SEARCH FOR A WITCH DOCTOR.
EXCUSE ME. DO YOU KNOW THE MAN WHO CURES ILLNESSES AT THIS OASIS?
WHY DO YOU WANT TO FIND THAT SORT OF PERSON?
MY FRIEND HERE HAS TRAVELED MANY MONTHS TO MEET HIM.
IF SUCH A MAN EXISTS HERE HE MUST BE VERY POWERFUL. NOT EVEN THE TRIBAL CHIEFTAIN ARE ABLE TO SEE HIM WHEN THEY WANT TO. ONLY IF HE CONSENTS TO A MEETING WILL YOU GET ONE.
DO NOT SEEK HIM OUT. LEAVE THE OASIS WHEN THE WAR IS OVER.
I THINK WE ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.
HOPEFULLY THE NEXT PERSON CAN HELP ME FIND HIM.

WHEN THE BOY SAW THE WOMAN WHO WAS APPROACHING THE SPRING, HE WAS FILLED WITH A SURGE FROM THE SOUL OF THE WORLD.
THIS FIRST LOOK AT THIS WOMAN HAD MADE HIM UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE EVERYONE IN THE WORLD IS CAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING... IT WAS LOVE.
COME ON, ASK HER....
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
I AM NAMED AFTER THE PROPHET'S DAUGHTER.
THAT IS THE MAN WHO KNOWS ALL THE SECRETS OF THE WORLD--HE LIVES IN THE SOUTH OF THE OASIS.
I THINK I LOVE HER. THE WIND HAD BROUGHT ME THE SMELL OF HER PERFUME THAT DAY IN TARIFA.
MY LOVE FOR HER WILL MAKE ME BE ABLE TO FIND ANY TREASURE IN THE WORLD.

THE NEXT DAY, THE BOY RETURNED TO THE SPRING HOPING TO SEE THE GIRL.
OH? IT'S HIM.
I FOUND HIM. HE TOLD ME I SHOULD TRY TO TRANSFORM LEAD INTO GOLD. THAT'S ALL HE SAID. GO AND TRY.
SO GO AND TRY.
THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO GO DO. I'M GOING TO START NOW.
I CAME TO TELL YOU ONE THING. I WANT YOU TO BE MY WIFE AND I LOVE YOU.
I AM GOING TO WAIT HERE FOR YOU EVERYDAY.

THE WAR IS GOING TO END SOMEDAY.
AND THEN I WILL GET MY TREASURE AND RETURN TO YOU.
AND THE WOMEN OF THE DESERT ARE PROUD OF THEIR TRIBESMEN.
THE TRIBESMEN ARE ALWAYS IN SEARCH OF TREASURE.
I MUST GO.

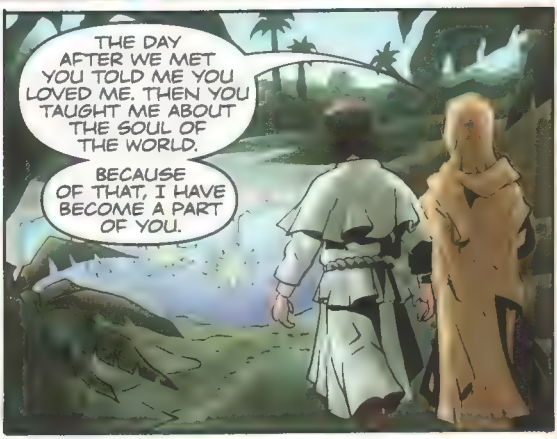
THE BOY WENT TO THE WELL EVERY DAY TO MEET WITH FATIMA.
HE TOLD HER ABOUT LIFE AS A SHEPHERD, ABOUT THE KING AND THE CRYSTAL SHOP.


THEY BECAME FRIENDS, AND EXCEPT FOR THE FIFTEEN MINUTES HE SPENT WITH HER, EACH DAY SEEMED LIKE IT WOULD NEVER PASS.

HASSAN, THE LEADER OF THE CARAVAN, HAS CALLED US ALL TO A MEETING.

WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THE WAR WILL END.
THE BATTLES MAY LAST A LONG TIME, PERHAPS EVEN YEARS.

THESE TYPE OF BATTLES MIGHT LAST A LONG TIME BECAUSE ALLAH IS ON BOTH SIDES.


THE DAY AFTER WE MET YOU TOLD ME YOU LOVED ME. THEN YOU TAUGHT ME ABOUT THE SOUL OF THE WORLD.
BECAUSE OF THAT, I HAVE BECOME A PART OF YOU.

THE DESERT TAKES OUR MEN FROM US, AND THEY DON'T ALWAYS RETURN.
WE KNOW THAT, AND WE ARE USED TO IT. THOSE WHO DON'T RETURN BECOME PART OF THE CLOUDS, AND PART OF THE ANIMALS THAT HIDE IN THE RAVINES AND OF THE WATER THAT COMES FROM THE EARTH.
THEY BECOME PART OF EVERYTHING... THEY BECOME THE SOUL OF THE WORLD. SOME DO COME BACK. AND THEN OTHER WOMEN ARE HAPPY BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THEIR MEN MAY ONE DAY RETURN AS WELL. I WILL BE ONE OF THE WOMEN WHO WAITS NOW.
I AM A DESERT WOMAN, AND I'M PROUD OF THAT.
I WANT MY HUSBAND TO WANDER FREE AS THE WIND THAT SHAPES THE DUNES.
I WILL RETURN.

I AM LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF THE WORLD, AND EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD IS BEGINNING TO MAKE SENSE TO ME...EVEN THE FLIGHT OF THE HAWKS.
I AM SO GRATEFUL TO BE IN LOVE.
WHEN YOU ARE IN LOVE, THINGS MAKE EVEN MORE SENSE.
HUH?!
WHA... WHAT WAS THAT?!
I SAW A VISION OF AN ARMY.
AN ARMY IS COMING. I HAD A VISION.
THE DESERT FILLS MEN'S HEARTS WITH VISIONS.
I WAS WATCHING THE HAWKS FIGHT AND THEN THE VISION FLASHED TO ME.
GO AND SPEAK TO THE TRIBAL CHIEFTAIN. TELL THEM ABOUT THE ARMIES THAT ARE APPROACHING.
THEY'LL LAUGH AT ME.
THEY ARE MEN OF THE DESERT. THEY BELIEVE IN OMENS.

I WANT TO SEE THE CHIEFTAINS. I'VE BROUGHT OMENS FROM THE DESERT.
TELL ME OF THESE OMENS.
THE BOY TOLD THE YOUNGER MAN WHAT HE HAD SEEN.
WAIT HERE.
BOY.
HUH?
YOU MAY ENTER.

WHO IS THE STRANGER WHO SPEAKS OF OMENS?
IT IS I.
WHY WOULD THE DESERT REVEAL SUCH THINGS TO A STRANGER WHEN IT KNOWS THAT WE HAVE BEEN HERE FOR GENERATIONS?
BECAUSE MY EYES ARE NOT YET ACCUSTOMED TO THE DESERT. I CAN SEE THINGS THAT EYES HABITUATED TO THE DESERT MIGHT NOT SEE.
AND BECAUSE I KNOW THE SOUL OF THE WORLD.
THE OASIS IS NEUTRAL GROUND. NO ONE ATTACKS AN OASIS.

I CAN TELL YOU ONLY WHAT I SAW. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE ME, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
THE MEN FELL INTO AN ANIMATED DISCUSSION.
THE MAN AT THE CENTER SMILED ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLY, AND THE BOY FELT BETTER.
TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO, IN A DISTANT LAND, A MAN WHO BELIEVED IN DREAMS WAS THROWN INTO A DUNGEON AND THEN SOLD AS A SLAVE.
OUR MERCHANTS BOUGHT THAT MAN, AND BROUGHT HIM TO EGYPT.
ALL OF US KNOW THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN DREAMS ALSO KNOWS HOW TO INTERPRET THEM.
WHEN THE PHARAOH DREAMED OF COWS THAT WERE THIN AND COWS THAT WERE FAT, THIS MAN I'M SPEAKING OF RESCUED EGYPT FROM FAMINE.
HIS NAME WAS JOSEPH.

HE, TOO, WAS A STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND, LIKE YOU, AND HE WAS PROBABLY ABOUT YOUR AGE. WE ALWAYS OBSERVE THE TRADITION.
THE TRADITION SAVED EGYPT FROM FAMINE IN THOSE DAYS, AND MADE THE EGYPTIAN THE WEALTHIEST OF PEOPLE.
THE TRADITION SAYS THE OASIS IS NEUTRAL TERRITORY, BECAUSE BOTH SIDES HAVE OASES, AND SO BOTH ARE VULNERABLE.
THE TRADITION ALSO SAYS THAT WE SHOULD BELIEVE THE MESSAGE OF THE DESERT. EVERYTHING WE KNOW WAS TAUGHT TO US BY THE DESERT.
TOMORROW, WE ARE GOING TO BREAK THE AGREEMENT THAT SAYS NO ONE AT THE OASIS MAY CARRY ARMS. THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DAY WE WILL BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR OUR ENEMIES.
WHEN THE SUN SETS, THE MEN WILL ONCE AGAIN SURRENDER THEIR ARMS TO ME.
FOR EVERY TEN DEAD MEN AMONG OUR ENEMIES, YOU WILL RECEIVE A PIECE OF GOLD.

BUT ARMS CANNOT BE DRAWN UNLESS THEY ALSO GO INTO BATTLE. ARMS ARE CAPRICIOUS AS THE DESERT, AND, IF THEY ARE NOT USED, THE NEXT TIME THEY MIGHT NOT FUNCTION.
IF AT LEAST ONE OF THEM HASN'T BEEN USED BY THE END OF THE DAY TOMORROW, ONE WILL BE USED ON YOU.
WHUMP
WHUMP
WHUMP
WHUMP
HUH?

WHO DARES TO READ THE MEANING OF THE FLIGHT OF THE HAWKS?
IT IS I WHO DARED TO DO SO.
MANY LIVES WILL BE SAVED, BECAUSE I WAS ABLE TO SEE THROUGH TO THE SOUL OF THE WORLD.
WHY DID YOU READ THE FLIGHT OF THE BIRDS?
I READ ONLY WHAT THE BIRDS WANTED TO TELL ME. THEY WANTED TO SAVE THE OASIS.
TOMORROW ALL OF YOU WILL DIE, BECAUSE THERE ARE MORE MEN AT THE OASIS THAN YOU HAVE.
WHO ARE YOU TO CHANGE WHAT ALLAH HAS WILLED?
ALLAH CREATED THE ARMIES, AND HE ALSO CREATED THE HAWKS. ALLAH TAUGHT ME THE LANGUAGE OF THE BIRDS. I'VE BEEN TOLD EVERYTHING HAS BEEN WRITTEN BY THE SAME HAND.
BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR PROGNOSTICATIONS.
WHEN SOMETHING IS WRITTEN, THERE IS NO WAY TO CHANGE IT.
ALL I SAW WAS AN ARMY. I DIDN'T SEE THE OUTCOME OF THE BATTLE.

WHAT IS A STRANGER DOING IN A STRANGE LAND?
I AM FOLLOWING MY PERSONAL LEGEND. IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND.
I HAD TO TEST YOUR COURAGE.
COURAGE IS THE QUALITY MOST ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING THE LANGUAGE OF THE WORLD.
YOU MUST NOT LET UP, EVEN AFTER HAVING COME SO FAR.
BECAUSE THE DESERT TESTS ALL MEN, IT CHALLENGES EVERY STEP AND KILLS THOSE WHO BECOME DISTRACTED.
HE REMINDS ME OF THE OLD KING.
IF THE WARRIORS COME HERE, AND YOUR HEAD IS STILL ON YOUR SHOULDERS AT SUNSET, COME AND FIND ME.
WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
THE MAN POINTED SOUTH AND THEN RODE AWAY.
THE BOY HAD MET THE ALCHEMIST.

THE NEXT MORNING, TWO THOUSAND MEN OF THE OASIS HID THROUGHOUT THE PALM TREES.
BEFORE THE SUN HAD REACHED ITS HIGH POINT, FIVE HUNDRED TRIBESMEN APPEARED ON THE HORIZION.
ATTACK!!!
THEY ARE COMING!
BE READY!!!
WITHIN A HALF AN HOUR ALL BUT ONE OF THE INVADERS LAY DEAD.

WHY DID YOU BREAK TRADITION?
I AM SORRY BUT YOU HAVE LEFT ME WITH NO CHOICE.
MY MEN HAVE BEEN STARVING AND WERE THIRSTY.
WE HAD BEEN EXHAUSTED BY TOO MANY RECENT BATTLES AND DECIDED TO TAKE THE OASIS SO AS TO BE ABLE TO RETURN TO WAR REFRESHED.
OUR TRADITION IS SACRED AND YOU ARE CONDEMNED TO A DISHONORABLE DEATH BY HANGING.
BOY!
YES?
HERE IS FIFTY PIECES OF GOLD.
BECOME THE COUNSELOR OF THE OASIS LIKE JOSEPH BECAME THE COUNSELOR OF EGYPT.

Later.
THAT MUST BE IT.
BEWARE, BOY, THAT IS WHERE THE GENIES LIVE.
I AM HERE.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE.
IS IT YOUR PERSONAL LEGEND THAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
WITH THE WAR BETWEEN THE TRIBES, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO CROSS THE DESERT. SO I HAVE COME HERE.
COME IN, WE WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO DRINK AND EAT THESE HAWKS.

WHY DID YOU WANT TO SEE ME?
BECAUSE OF THE OMENS. THE WIND TOLD ME YOU WOULD BE COMING, AND THAT YOU WOULD NEED HELP.
ARE YOU SURE IT DIDN'T MEAN THE ENGLISH-MAN? HE IS LOOKING FOR YOU.
HE HAS OTHER THINGS TO DO FIRST. HE IS ON THE RIGHT PATH.
AND WHAT ABOUT ME?
WHEN A PERSON REALLY DESIRES SOMETHING, ALL THE UNIVERSE CONSPIRES TO HELP THEM.
DRINK AND ENJOY YOURSELF.
I HAVE ALREADY FOUND MY TREASURE HERE AT THE OASIS. I HAVE FATIMA.
SHE WASN'T FOUND AT THE PYRAMID.
YOU NEED TO CONTINUE ON SO EVERYTHING YOU LEARNED ALONG THE WAY MAKES SENSE.
SELL YOUR CAMEL AND BUY A HORSE. CAMELS CAN WALK A THOUSAND PACES AND NEVER SEEM THIRSTY. THEN THEY SUDDENLY KNEEL AND DIE.
BUT YOU ALWAYS KNOW WHAT YOU CAN ASK OF A HORSE, AND WHEN THEY ARE ABOUT TO DIE.

The next night.
SHOW ME WHERE THERE IS LIFE IN THE DESERT.
ONLY THOSE WHO CAN SEE SUCH SIGNS OF LIFE ARE ABLE TO FIND TREASURE.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIND LIFE IN THE DESERT.
I KNOW THAT THERE IS LIFE HERE, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.
LIFE ATTRACTS LIFE.
THE BOY UNDERSTOOD. HE LOOSENED THE REINS ON HIS HORSE, WHO GALLOPED FORWARD OVER THE ROCKS AND SAND.
A HALF HOUR LATER, FOR NO APPARENT REASON, THE BOY'S HORSE BEGAN TO SLOW.
THERE'S LIFE HERE.
I DON'T KNOW THE LANGUAGE OF THE DESERT, BUT MY HORSE KNOWS THE LANGUAGE OF LIFE.

WITHOUT A WORD, THE ALCHEMIST DISMOUNTED HIS HORSE AND REACHED INTO A HOLE AMONGST THE ROCKS.
THE BOY WATCHED AS THE ALCHEMIST BATTLED AN UNSEEN CREATURE IN THE HOLE.
THE ALCHEMIST WITHDREW HIS ARM TO REVEAL HE WAS HOLDING A SNAKE.
WATCH OUT FOR THE VENOM!!!
NOT TO WORRY. HE WON'T LEAVE THE CIRCLE I WILL PLACE ON THE SAND.
YOU HAVE FOUND LIFE IN THE DESERT. THAT IS THE OMEN I NEEDED.
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT LOVE NEVER KEEPS A MAN FROM PURSUING HIS PERSONAL LEGEND. FATIMA IS A WOMAN OF THE DESERT AND SHE HAS FOUND HER TREASURE IN YOU. NOW SHE EXPECTS YOU TO FIND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR.
THE ALCHEMIST EXPLAINED TO THE BOY WHY HE MUST SEEK HIS PERSONAL LEGEND TO ITS COMPLETION OR HE WOULD REGRET IT FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.
I WILL GO WITH YOU.
WE WILL LEAVE BEFORE SUNRISE.

The next morning.
DON'T THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU LEFT BEHIND.
MEN DREAM MORE ABOUT COMING HOME THAN ABOUT LEAVING.
EVERYTHING IS WRITTEN IN THE SOUL OF THE WORLD, AND THERE IT WILL STAY FOREVER.
IF WHAT ONE FINDS IS MADE OF PURE MATTER, IT WILL NEVER SPOIL. AND ONE CAN ALWAYS COME BACK. IF WHAT YOU HAD FOUND WAS ONLY A MOMENT OF LIGHT, LIKE THE EXPLOSION OF A STAR, YOU WOULD FIND NOTHING ON YOUR RETURN.
THE ALCHEMIST WAS SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE OF ALCHEMY, BUT THE BOY KNEW HE WAS REFERRING TO FATIMA.
THE BOY COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK ABOUT ALL HE LEFT BEHIND. ESPECIALLY THE WOMAN HE LOVED.
IT WAS IN THAT WAY THEY TRAVELED THROUGH THE DESERT.
THE TRIBAL WARS CONTINUED.
OCCASIONALLY THE WIND WOULD BRING THEM THE SMELL OF WAR.
YOU ARE ALMOST AT THE END OF YOUR JOURNEY. I CONGRATULATE YOU FOR HAVING PURSUED YOUR PERSONAL LEGEND.
AND YOU'VE TOLD ME NOTHING ALONG THE WAY. I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO TEACH ME SOME OF THE THINGS YOU KNOW.

YOU CAN LEARN ONLY THROUGH ACTION. EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW YOU HAVE LEARNED ON YOUR JOURNEY.
WHY ARE YOU CALLED THE ALCHEMIST?
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I AM.
WHAT WAS WRITTEN ON THE EMERALD TABLET I HAD READ ABOUT IN THE BOOKS OF THE ENGLISHMAN?
THIS IS WHAT IS WRITTEN ON THE EMERALD TABLET.
IT'S A CODE. IT LOOKS LIKE WHAT I SAW IN THE BOOKS.
NO.
IT'S LIKE A FLIGHT OF TWO HAWKS; IT CAN'T BE UNDERSTOOD BY REASON ALONE.

THE EMERALD TABLET IS A DIRECT PASSAGE TO THE SOUL OF THE WORLD.
THE WISE MEN UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS NATURAL WORLD IS ONLY AN IMAGE AND A COPY OF PARADISE. THE EXISTENCE OF THIS WORLD IS SIMPLY A COPY OF PARADISE.
THE EXISTENCE OF THIS WORLD IS SIMPLY A GUARANTEE THAT THERE EXISTS A WORLD THAT IS PERFECT. GOD CREATED THE WORLD SO THAT, THROUGH ITS VISIBLE OBJECTS, MEN COULD UNDERSTAND HIS SPIRITUAL TEACHING AND THE MARVELS OF WISDOM.
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN BY ACTION.
SHOULD I UNDERSTAND THE EMERALD TABLET?
PERHAPS, IF YOU WERE IN A LABORATORY OF ALCHEMY, THIS WOULD BE THE RIGHT TIME TO STUDY THE EMERALD TABLET.
BUT YOU ARE IN THE DESERT.
SO IMMERSE YOURSELF IN IT.
THE DESERT WILL GIVE YOU AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD; IN FACT ANYTHING ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH WILL DO THAT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO EVEN UNDERSTAND THE DESERT.
THEN WHAT?
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CONTEMPLATE A SIMPLE GRAIN OF SAND, AND YOU WILL SEE IN IT ALL THE MARVELS OF CREATION.
HOW DO I IMMERSE MYSELF IN THE DESERT?
LISTEN TO YOUR HEART.
IT KNOWS ALL THINGS, BECAUSE IT CAME FROM THE SOUL OF THE WORLD, AND IT WILL ONE DAY RETURN THERE.
WHAT ARE YOU MEN DOING HERE?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE DESERT?
I'M HUNTING WITH MY FALCON.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SEARCH YOU TO SEE WHETHER YOU'RE ARMED.
WHY ARE YOU CARRYING MONEY?
I NEED TO GET TO THE PYRAMIDS.
WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?
THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE AND THE ELIXIR OF LIFE.
IT'S THE MASTER WORK OF THE ALCHEMISTS. WHOEVER SWALLOWS THAT ELIXIR WILL NEVER BE SICK AGAIN, AND A FRAGMENT FROM THE STONES TURNS ANY METAL INTO GOLD.

HAHAHA!
YOU MAY GO.
ARE YOU CRAZY?
WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR?
TO SHOW YOU ONE OF LIFE'S SIMPLE LESSONS. WHEN YOU POSSESS GREAT TREASURE WITHIN YOU, SELDOM ARE YOU BELIEVED.
THEY CONTINUED TO CROSS THE DESERT.

YOU ARE
PERSONAL LEGEND.
YOU WERE VERY
ONCE I HID YOUR FATHER'S RIFLE BECAUSE I
WHEN YOU
DOES A MAN'S HEART ALWAYS HELP HIM?
MOSTLY JUST THE HEARTS OF THOSE WHO ARE TRYING TO REALIZE THEIR PERSONAL LEGEND.
BUT THEY DO HELP CHILDREN, DRUNKARDS, AND THE ELDERLY, TOO.
DOES THAT MEAN THAT I'LL NEVER RUN INTO DANGER?
IT MEANS ONLY THAT THE HEART DOES WHAT IT CAN.
WILL YOU TEACH ME ABOUT ALCHEMY?
EVERYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE EVOLVED, AND FOR WISE MEN, GOLD IS THE METAL THAT EVOLVED THE FURTHEST.
MEN HAVE NEVER UNDERSTOOD THE WORDS OF THE WISE, AND EVEN GOLD HAS BECOME THE BASIS FOR CONFLICT.
I HAVE KNOWN TRUE ALCHEMISTS; THEY LOCKED THEMSELVES IN THEIR LABORATORIES, AND TRIED TO EVOLVE, AS GOLD HAD.
AND THEY FOUND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE, BECAUSE THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT WHEN SOMETHING EVOLVES, EVERYTHING AROUND THAT THING EVOLVES AS WELL.

ANYONE WHO INTERFERES WITH THE PERSONAL LEGEND OF ANOTHER THING NEVER WILL DISCOVER HIS OWN.
THIS DESERT WAS ONCE A SEA.
I NOTICED THAT.
THE SEA HAS LIVED ON IN THIS SHELL, BECAUSE THAT'S ITS PERSONAL LEGEND.
AND IT WILL NEVER CEASE DOING SO UNTIL THE DESERT IS ONCE AGAIN COVERED BY WATER.
HMM?
HE DOESN'T SEEM WORRIED.

THE TWO TRIBESMEN THE ALCHEMIST AND THE BOY SAW ON THE HILL SOON TURNED INTO TEN AND THEN ONE HUNDRED.
AND THEN THEY WERE EVERYWHERE IN THE DUNES.
EVEN FROM A DISTANCE, THEIR EYES CONVEYED THE STRENGTH OF THEIR SOULS. AND THEIR EYES SPOKE OF DEATH.
MILITARY CAMP.
THESE ARE THE SPIES.
WE'RE JUST TRAVELERS.
YOU WERE SEEN AT THE ENEMY CAMP THREE DAYS AGO. AND YOU WERE TALKING WITH ONE OF THE TROOPS THERE.

I'M JUST A MAN WHO WANDERS THE DESERT AND KNOWS THE STARS.
I HAVE NO INFORMATION ABOUT TROOPS OR ABOUT THE MOVEMENT OF TRIBES. I WAS SIMPLY ACTING AS A GUIDE FOR MY FRIEND HERE.
WHO IS YOUR FRIEND?
AN ALCHEMIST.
HE UNDERSTANDS THE FORCES OF NATURE. AND HE WANTS TO SHOW YOU HIS POWER.
HE HAS BROUGHT MONEY TO GIVE TO YOUR TRIBE.
IT IS A MAN WHO UNDERSTANDS NATURE AND THE WORLD. IF HE WANTED TO HE COULD DESTROY THIS CAMP JUST WITH THE FORCE OF THE WIND.
HAHAHAH!

I WANT TO SEE HIM DO IT!
HE NEEDS THREE DAYS.
HE IS GOING TO TRANSFORM HIMSELF INTO THE WIND, JUST TO DEMONSTRATE HIS POWER.
IF HE CAN'T DO SO, WE HUMBLY OFFER YOU OUR LIVES, FOR THE HONOR OF YOUR TRIBE.
YOU CAN'T OFFER ME SOMETHING THAT IS ALREADY MINE. YOU HAVE THREE DAYS.
DON'T LET THEM SEE THAT YOU ARE AFRAID.
THEY ARE BRAVE MEN, AND THEY DESPISE COWARDS.
YOU GAVE THEM EVERYTHING I HAD!
EVERYTHING I'VE SAVED IN MY ENTIRE LIFE!
WELL, WHAT GOOD WOULD IT BE TO YOU IF YOU HAD TO DIE?

YOUR MONEY SAVED US FOR THREE DAYS.
IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT MONEY SAVES A PERSON'S LIFE.
WIND! HOW CAN I TRANSFORM MYSELF TO WIND? I'M NO ALCHEMIST.
YOU. LET ME HAVE SOME OF YOUR TEA.
DON'T GIVE IN TO YOUR FEARS.
IF YOU DO, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TALK TO YOUR HEART.
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO TURN MYSELF INTO WIND.
IF A PERSON IS LIVING OUT HIS PERSONAL LEGEND, HE KNOWS EVERYTHING HE NEEDS TO KNOW. THERE IS ONLY ONE THING THAT MAKES A DREAM IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHEIVE; THE FEAR OF FAILURE.
I'M NOT AFRAID OF FAILING. IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TURN MYSELF INTO THE WIND.
BUT WHAT IF I CAN'T?
WELL, YOU'LL HAVE TO LEARN; YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.
THEN YOU'LL DIE IN THE MIDDLE OF SEEKING YOUR PERSONAL LEGEND. IT'S A LOT BETTER THAN MOST PEOPLE WHO DIE NEVER KNOWING WHAT THEIR PERSONAL LEGEND WAS.

The first day.
THERE WAS A MAJOR BATTLE THAT DAY AND A NUMBER OF DEAD AND WOUNDED MEN WERE BROUGHT BACK TO THE CAMP.
DEATH DOESN'T CHANGE ANYTHING.
I STILL HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO CHANGE MYSELF INTO THE WIND.
REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU: THE WORLD IS ONLY THE VISIBLE ASPECT OF GOD.
AND THAT WHAT ALCHEMY DOES IS TO BRING SPIRITUAL PERFECTION INTO CONTACT WITH THE MATERIAL PLANE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
FEEDING MY FALCON.
IF I'M NOT ABLE TO TURN MYSELF INTO THE WIND, WE'RE GOING TO DIE.
WHY FEED YOUR FALCON?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MAY DIE.
I ALREADY KNOW HOW TO TURN MYSELF INTO THE WIND.

The second day.
THE BOY CLIMBED A CLIFF NEAR THE CAMP.
HE SPENT THE ENTIRE AFTERNOON OF THE SECOND DAY LOOKING OUT OVER THE DESERT LISTENING TO HIS HEART.
THE BOY KNEW THE DESERT SENSED HIS FEAR.
THEY SPOKE THE SAME LANGUAGE.
LET ME SEE YOU TURN YOURSELF INTO WIND.
LET'S.
IT'S GOING TO TAKE AWHILE.
WE'RE IN NO HURRY. WE ARE MEN OF THE DESERT.
FATIMA...
WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE TODAY?
DIDN'T YOU
ME YESTERDAY?
SOMEWHERE YOU ARE HOLDING THE PERSON I LOVE.
SO, WHEN I LOOK OUT OVER YOUR SANDS, I AM ALSO LOOKING AT HER.
I WANT TO RETURN TO HER, AND I NEED YOUR HELP SO THAT I CAN TURN MYSELF INTO THE WIND.

WHAT IS ISMIT
LOVE IS THE FALCON'S FLIGHT OVER YOUR SANDS. BECAUSE, FOR HIM, YOU ARE A GREEN FIELD, FROM WHICH HE ALWAYS RETURNS WITH GAME.
HE KNOWS YOUR ROCKS, YOUR DUNES, AND YOUR MOUNTAINS, AND YOU ARE GENEROUS TO HIM.
THE FALCON'S BEAK CARRIES BITS OF ME, MYSELF.
FOR YEARS, I CARE FOR HIS GAME, FEEDING IT WITH THE LITTLE WATER I HAVE. AND THEN I SHOW HIM WHERE THE GAME IS.
AND ONE DAY, AS I ENJOY THE FACT THAT HIS GAME THRIVES ON MY SURFACE, THE FALCON TAKES FLIGHT OUT OF THE BLUE AND TAKES AWAY WHAT I CREATED.
THAT'S HOW THE WORLD GOES.
SO IS THAT WHAT LOVE IS?
BUT THAT IS WHY YOU CREATED THE GAME IN THE FIRST PLACE. TO NOURISH THE FALCON AND THE FALCON NOURISHES MAN.
AND MAN EVENTUALLY NOURISHES YOUR SANDS, WHERE THE GAME WILL FLOURISH AGAIN.
YES, THAT IS WHAT LOVE IS.
THE GAME BECOMES THE FALCON, THE FALCON BECOMES MAN, AND THE MAN, IN HIS TURN, THE DESERT.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
BUT YOU CAN AT LEAST UNDERSTAND THAT SOMEWHERE IN YOUR SANDS THERE IS A WOMAN WAITING FOR ME, AND THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO TURN MYSELF INTO WIND.
I'LL GIVE YOU MY SAND TO HELP THE WIND BLOW, BUT ALONE, I CAN'T DO ANYTHING.

YOU HAVE TO ASK THE WIND FOR HELP.
THE TRIBESMEN WATCHED THE BOY AND SPOKE IN A LANGUAGE THE BOY DIDN'T KNOW.
HELP ME.
ONE DAY YOU CARRIED THE VOICE OF MY LOVED ONE TO ME.
WHO TAUGHT YOU TO SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF THE DESERT AND THE WIND?
MY HEART.
YOU CAN'T BE THE WIND.
WE'RE TWO VERY DIFFERENT THINGS.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. I LEARNED THE ALCHEMIST'S SECRETS IN MY TRAVELS.
I HAVE INSIDE ME THE WINDS, THE DESERTS, THE OCEANS, THE STARS AND EVERYTHING CREATED IN THE UNIVERSE.
WE ARE ALL MADE BY THE SAME HAND, WE HAVE THE SAME SOUL.
I HEARD WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT THE OTHER DAY WITH THE ALCHEMIST.
EVERYTHING HAS A PERSONAL LEGEND, BUT PEOPLE CAN'T TURN THEMSELVES INTO WIND.
JUST TEACH ME TO BE THE WIND FOR A FEW MOMENTS.
SO YOU AND I CAN TALK ABOUT THE LIMITED POSSIBILITIES OF PEOPLE AND THE WIND.

IN MY TRAVELS AROUND THE WORLD, I'VE OFTEN SEEN PEOPLE SPEAKING OF LOVE AND LOOKING TOWARD THE HEAVENS
MAYBE IT'S BETTER TO ASK THE HEAVENS
SO, THE BOY ASKED THE WIND TO FILL THE AIR WITH SAND SO HE WOULD NOT BE BLINDED WHEN HE SPOKE WITH THE SUN.
SIR, THE WIND IS GETTING STRONGER. MAYBE WE SHOULD END THIS.
NO, I WANT TO SEE THE GREATNESS OF ALLAH.
I WANT TO SEE HOW A MAN TURNS HIMSELF INTO THE WIND.
THE WIND TOLD ME THAT YOU KNOW ABOUT LOVE. IF SO YOU KNOW MUST ALSO KNOW OF THE SOUL OF THE WORLD 'CAUSE IT'S MADE OF LOVE.

AS LOVE RUSHED FROM HIS HEART THE BOY BEGAN TO PRAY.
I WANT YOU TO HELP ME TURN MYSELF INTO THE WIND.
THE BOY SAW THAT THE HAND HAD A REASON FOR CREATING EVERYTHING, AND ONLY THE HAND COULD PERFORM MIRACLES OR TURN A MAN TO WIND.
THE BOY REALIZED THAT ONLY THE HAND UNDERSTOOD THE MASTER DESIGN OF THE UNIVERSE, CREATED IN SIX DAYS.
THE BOY REACHED THROUGH TO THE SOUL OF THE WORLD, AND SAW THAT IT WAS PART OF THE SOUL OF GOD.
AND HE SAW THAT THE SOUL OF GOD WAS PART OF HIS OWN SOUL.
AND THAT HE, A BOY, COULD PERFORM MIRACLES.
THE WIND BLEW THAT DAY LIKE IT HAD NEVER BLOWN BEFORE.
WHEN IT FINALLY STOPPED, THE MEN COULD SEE THE BOY WAS GONE.
THE MEN WERE TERRIFIED AT WHAT THE BOY HAD DONE. BUT THERE WERE TWO WHO WERE SMILING. THE ALCHEMIST, BECAUSE HE HAD FOUND HIS PERFECT DISCIPLE, AND THE GENERAL, BECAUSE THAT DISCIPLE HAD UNDERSTOOD THE GLORY OF GOD.
THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE GENERAL BADE THE BOY AND THE ALCHEMIST FAREWELL, AND PROVIDED THEM WITH AN ESCORT PARTY TO ACCOMPANY THEM AS FAR AS THEY CHOSE.
GO WITH ALLAH, MY FRIENDS.

WE WILL REST HERE FOR A BIT, BOY.
YOU ARE ONLY THREE HOURS FROM THE PYRAMIDS.
YOU MEN CAN GO BACK TO YOUR CAMP.
BUT FROM HERE ON, YOU WILL BE ALONE.
THANK YOU, YOU TAUGHT ME THE LANGUAGE OF THE WORLD.
I ONLY INVOKED WHAT YOU ALREADY KNEW.
KNOCK KNOCK
YES?
COME.
I HAVE ASKED HIM TO LET US USE THE KITCHEN FOR A WHILE.

I THINK THE TRIBAL WARS ARE GOING TO LAST A LONG TIME.
I HOPE NOT.
THE CARAVANS HAVE STOPPED COMING.
THE PEOPLE WAIT FOR THE END OF THE WAR.
BUT GOD'S WILL BE DONE.
EXACTLY!
IT'S DONE.

IT'S...

GOLD!!

WILL I LEARN TO DO THAT SOMEDAY?
THIS WAS MY PERSONAL LEGEND, NOT YOURS.

BUT I WANTED TO SHOW YOU THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE.

SNAP!

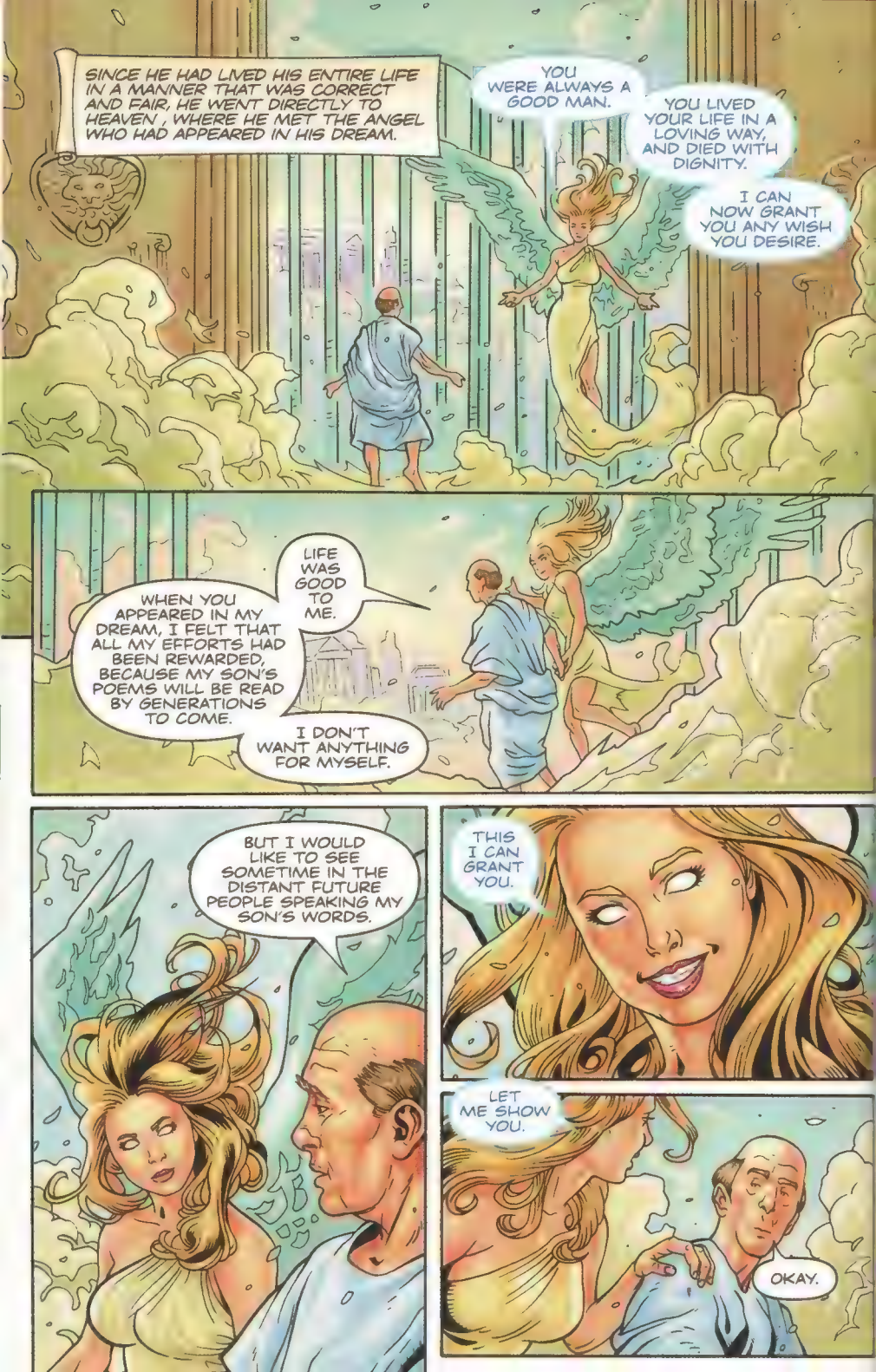
THIS IS FOR YOU.
IT'S FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO THE PILGRIMS.
BUT THIS PAYMENT GOES WELL BEYOND MY GENEROSITY.

DON'T SAY THAT AGAIN. LIFE MIGHT BE LISTENING, AND GIVE YOU LESS THE NEXT TIME.
AS YOU WISH, MY FRIEND.
THIS IS FOR YOU.
TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT YOU GAVE TO THE GENERAL.
THIS PIECE IS FOR ME.
BECAUSE I HAVE TO RETURN TO THE DESERT WHERE THERE ARE TRIBAL WARS.
THIS IS FOR THE BOY. IN CASE HE EVER NEEDS IT.
OKAY.
BUT I'M GOING IN SEARCH OF MY TREASURE. I'M VERY CLOSE NOW.

AND I'M CERTAIN YOU WILL FIND IT.
THEN WHY THIS?
BECAUSE YOU ALREADY LOST YOUR SAVINGS TWICE. ONCE TO THE THIEF, AND ONCE TO THE GENERAL.
I'M AN OLD, SUPERSTITIOUS ARAB, AND I BELIEVE IN OUR PROVERBS.
THERE'S ONE THAT SAYS: EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENS ONCE CAN NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.
BUT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS TWICE WILL SURELY HAPPEN A THIRD TIME.

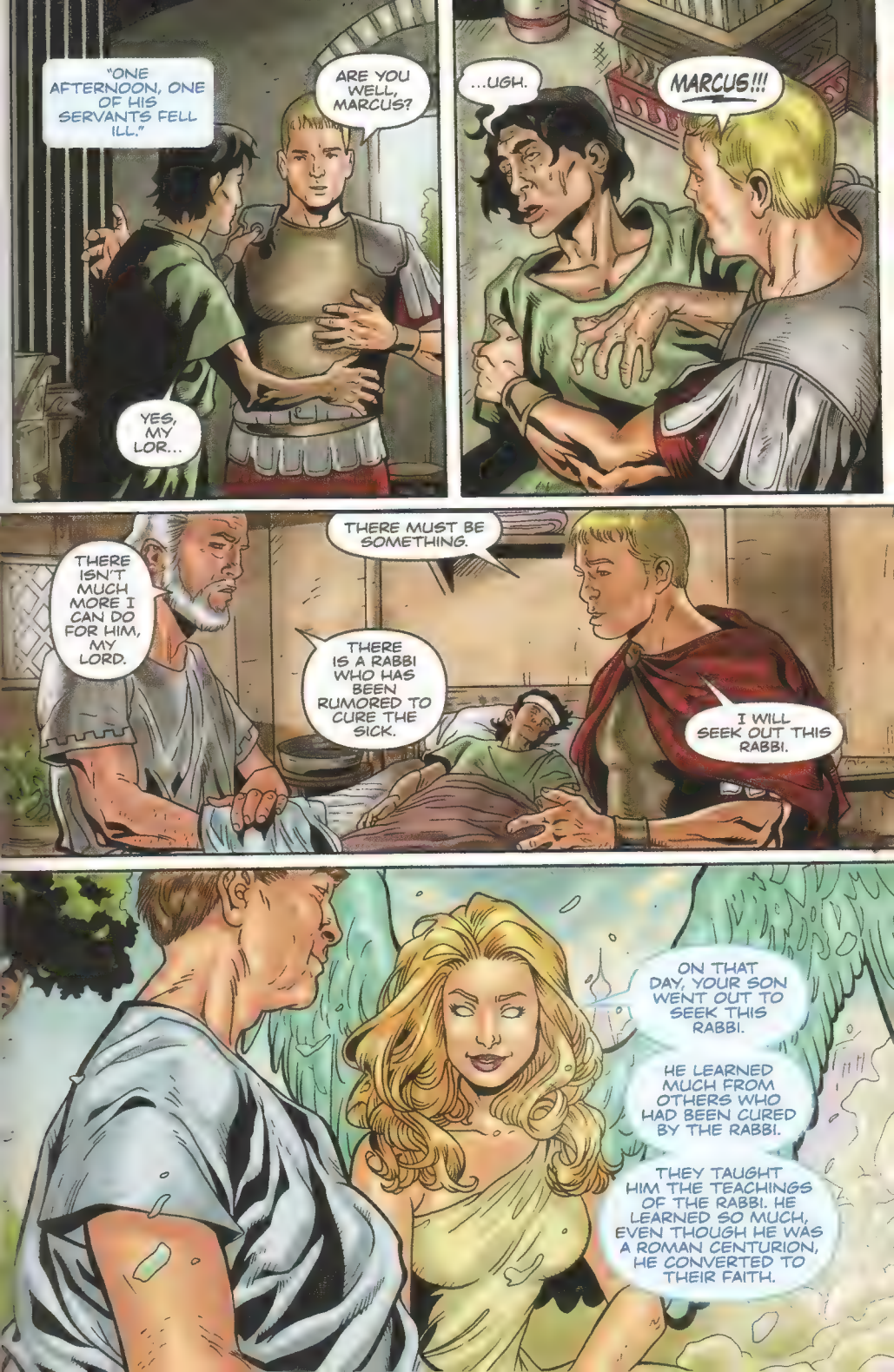
I WANT TO TELL YOU A STORY ABOUT DREAMS.
OK.
IN ANCIENT ROME, AT THE TIME OF EMPEROR TIBERIUS, THERE LIVED A GOOD MAN WITH TWO SONS.
ONE WAS IN THE MILITARY, AND HAD BEEN SENT TO THE MOST DISTANT REGIONS OF THE EMPIRE.
THE OTHER SON WAS A POET, AND DELIGHTED ALL OF ROME WITH HIS BEAUTIFUL VERSES.
ONE NIGHT THE FATHER HAD A DREAM.
IN THE DREAM AN ANGEL APPEARED TO HIM.
THE WORD OF ONE OF YOUR SONS WOULD BE LEARNED AND REPEATED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD FOR ALL GENERATIONS TO COME.
YOU SEE, THE ANGEL HAD REVEALED TO HIM SOMETHING ANY FATHER WOULD BE PROUD TO KNOW.

SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THE FATHER DIED.
HE HAD SAVED A CHILD WHO...
...WAS ABOUT TO BE CRUSHED BY THE WHEELS OF A CHARIOT.
IN HIS ATTEMPT, HE WAS STRUCK AND KILLED INSTEAD OF THE CHILD.


SINCE HE HAD LIVED HIS ENTIRE LIFE IN A MANNER THAT WAS CORRECT AND FAIR, HE WENT DIRECTLY TO HEAVEN , WHERE HE MET THE ANGEL WHO HAD APPEARED IN HIS DREAM.
YOU WERE ALWAYS A GOOD MAN.
YOU LIVED YOUR LIFE IN A LOVING WAY, AND DIED WITH DIGNITY.
I CAN NOW GRANT YOU ANY WISH YOU DESIRE.
LIFE WAS GOOD TO ME.
WHEN YOU APPEARED IN MY DREAM, I FELT THAT ALL MY EFFORTS HAD BEEN REWARDED, BECAUSE MY SON'S POEMS WILL BE READ BY GENERATIONS TO COME.
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING FOR MYSELF.
BUT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOMETIME IN THE DISTANT FUTURE PEOPLE SPEAKING MY SON'S WORDS.
THIS I CAN GRANT YOU.
LET ME SHOW YOU.
OKAY.

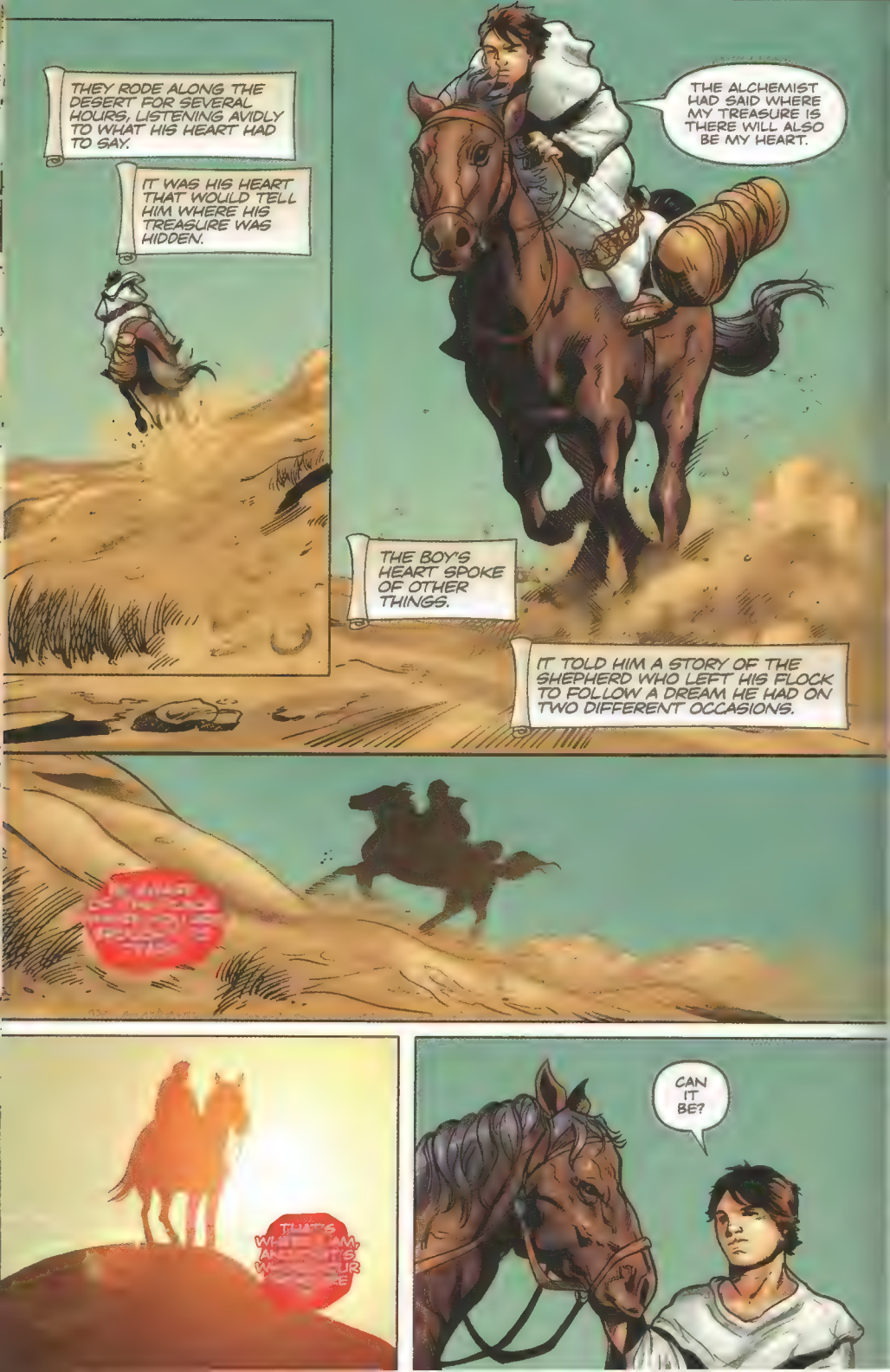
THE ANGEL HAD PROJECTED THE MAN AND HERSELF FAR INTO THE FUTURE.
I KNEW MY SON'S POEMS WOULD BE IMMORTAL.
CAN YOU TELL ME WHICH OF MY SON'S POEMS THESE PEOPLE ARE REPEATING?

THE VERSES OF YOUR SON WHO WAS A POET WERE VERY POPULAR IN ROME.
EVERYONE LOVED THEM AND ENJOYED THEM. BUT WHEN THE REIGN OF TIBERIUS ENDED HIS POEMS WERE FORGOTTEN.
THE WORDS YOU HEARD, WERE THOSE OF YOUR SON IN THE MILITARY.
WHAT?!
YOUR SON WENT TO SERVE AT A DISTANT PLACE, AND BECAME A CENTURION


"ONE AFTERNOON, ONE OF HIS SERVANTS FELL ILL."
ARE YOU WELL, MARCUS?
YES, MY LOR...
...UGH.
MARCUS!!!
THERE ISN'T MUCH MORE I CAN DO FOR HIM, MY LORD.
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING.
THERE IS A RABBI WHO HAS BEEN RUMORED TO CURE THE SICK.
I WILL SEEK OUT THIS RABBI.
ON THAT DAY, YOUR SON WENT OUT TO SEEK THIS RABBI.
HE LEARNED MUCH FROM OTHERS WHO HAD BEEN CURED BY THE RABBI.
THEY TAUGHT HIM THE TEACHINGS OF THE RABBI. HE LEARNED SO MUCH, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS A ROMAN CENTURION, HE CONVERTED TO THEIR FAITH.

SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HE REACHED THE PLACE WHERE THE RABBI HE WAS LOOKING FOR WAS VISITING.
MY LORD, MY SERVANT MARCUS IS GRAVELY ILL. I HAVE LEARNED YOU CAN HEAL HIM. I ASK NOTHING FOR MYSELF BUT FOR MY SERVANT TO BE HEALED.
WE CAN LEAVE AT ONCE TO YOUR HOME. I WILL HELP THIS MAN YOU HAVE TRAVELED SO FAR ON BEHALF OF.
TRUE, I AM IN THE PRESENCE OF THE SON OF GOD.
MY LORD, I AM NOT WORTHY THAT YOU SHOULD COME UNDER MY ROOF. BUT ONLY SPEAK A WORD AND MY SERVANT WILL BE HEALED.
THANK YOU.

NO MATTER WHAT HE DOES, EVERY PERSON ON EARTH PLAYS A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.
AND NORMALLY HE DOESN'T KNOW IT.
I NEVER THOUGHT QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE WOULD BE OF SUCH IMPORTANCE TO A SHEPHERD.
GOOD-BYE.
GOOD-BYE.


THEY RODE ALONG THE DESERT FOR SEVERAL HOURS, LISTENING AVIDLY TO WHAT HIS HEART HAD TO SAY.
IT WAS HIS HEART THAT WOULD TELL HIM WHERE HIS TREASURE WAS HIDDEN.
THE ALCHEMIST HAD SAID WHERE MY TREASURE IS THERE WILL ALSO BE MY HEART.
THE BOY'S HEART SPOKE OF OTHER THINGS.
IT TOLD HIM A STORY OF THE SHEPHERD WHO LEFT HIS FLOCK TO FOLLOW A DREAM HE HAD ON TWO DIFFERENT OCCASIONS.
CAN IT BE?

DURING HIS TIME IN THE DESERT, HE HAD LEARNED THAT, IN EGYPT, THE SCARAB BEETLES ARE A SYMBOL OF GOD.
ANOTHER OMEN.
THIS IS THE SPOT.
NOTHING BUT ROCKS SO FAR. IT HAS TO BE HERE, MY HEART TOLD ME SO.
HUH!

THE PYRAMIDS!
THANK YOU, LORD, FOR MAKING ME BELIEVE IN MY PERSONAL LEGEND.
THANK YOU FOR LEADING ME TO MEET A KING, A MERCHANT, AN ENGLISHMAN, AND AN ALCHEMIST.
AND ABOVE ALL ELSE, THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME MEET THE WOMAN OF THE DESERT WHO TOLD ME LOVE WOULD NEVER KEEP A MAN FROM HIS PERSONAL LEGEND.
IF HE WANTED TO, HE COULD NOW RETURN TO THE OASIS, GO BACK TO FATIMA, AND LIVE HIS LIFE AS A SIMPLE SHEPHERD.
AFTER ALL, THE ALCHEMIST WITH ALL HE KNEW OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE WORLD CONTINUED TO LIVE IN THE DESERT.
I HAVE LEARNED ALL I NEEDED TO KNOW AND EXPERIENCED EVERYTHING I COULD POSSIBLY EVER DREAM OF.
NO PROJECT IS COMPLETE UNTIL THE OBJECTIVE HAD BEEN ACHEIVED.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WE'RE REFUGEES FROM THE TRIBAL WARS, AND WE NEED MONEY.
WHAT ARE YOU HIDING THERE?
I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING.
THERE'S GOLD HERE.
HE'S PROBABLY GOT MORE GOLD HIDDEN IN THE GROUND!

DIG, BOY!
WHAT GOOD IS MONEY IF YOU ARE GOING TO DIE?
IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT MONEY CAN SAVE SOMEONE'S LIFE.
STOP!
I'M DIGGING FOR TREASURE.
I HAD THE SAME DREAM TWICE...OF TREASURE HIDDEN NEAR THE PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT.
SO I HAVE FOLLOWED MY DREAM HERE...
LEAVE HIM.
HE DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE.
HE MUST HAVE STOLEN THIS GOLD.

WE'RE LEAVING.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DIE.
YOU'LL LIVE, AND YOU'LL LEARN THAT A MAN SHOULDN'T BE SO STUPID.
TWO YEARS AGO, RIGHT HERE ON THIS SPOT, I HAD A RECURRENT DREAM, TOO. I DREAMED I SHOULD TRAVEL TO THE FIELDS OF SPAIN AND LOOK FOR A RUINED CHURCH WHERE SHEPHERDS AND THEIR SHEEP SLEPT.
IN MY DREAM, THERE WAS A SYCAMORE GROWING OUT OF THE RUINS OF THE SACRISTY, AND I WAS TOLD THAT IF I DUG AT THE ROOTS OF THE SYCAMORE, I WOULD FIND A HIDDEN TREASURE.
BUT I'M NOT SO STUPID AS TO CROSS AN ENTIRE DESERT JUST BECAUSE OF A RECURRENT DREAM.
OH!

THE BOY STOOD SHAKILY, AND LOOKED ONCE MORE AT THE PYRAMIDS.
THEY SEEMED TO LAUGH AT HIM, AND HE LAUGHED BACK, HIS HEART BURSTING WITH JOY.
HA! HA!
BECAUSE NOW HE KNEW WHERE HIS TREASURE WAS.

Two weeks later.
Spain.
I HAVE COME FULL CIRCLE.
I CAN REMEMBER SO LONG AGO BEING HERE WITH MY SHEEP...IT WAS SO PEACEFUL THAT NIGHT.
EXCEPT FOR THE DREAM.
I HAVE RETURNED HERE NOT WITH MY FLOCK BUT WITH A SHOVEL TO FIND HIDDEN TREASURE.
I CAN REMEMBER THE NIGHT THE ALCHEMIST AND I DRANK WINE IN THE DESERT.
I WAS STILL NOT READY TO FIND MY TREASURE.

HE THOUGHT OF THE MANY ROADS HE HAD TRAVELED, AND OF THE STRANGE WAY GOD HAD CHOSEN TO SHOW HIM HIS TREASURE.
IF I HADN'T BELIEVED IN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RECURRENT DREAMS...
...I WOULD NEVER HAVE MET THE GYPSY WOMAN, THE KING, THE THIEF, OR...
...WELL, IT'S A LONG LIST.
BUT THE PATH WAS WRITTEN IN THE OMENS.

THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD GO WRONG.
THE BOY FELL ASLEEP WITH THOUGHTS OF HIS JOURNEY ON HIS MIND.
The next morning.
YOU OLD SORCERER.
YOU KNEW THE WHOLE STORY.
YOU EVEN LEFT A BIT OF GOLD AT THE MONASTERY SO I COULD GET BACK TO THIS CHURCH.

THE MONK LAUGHED WHEN HE SAW ME COME BACK IN TATTERS.
COULDN'T YOU HAVE SAVED ME FROM THAT?
NO.
IF I HAD, YOU'D NEVER HAVE SEEN THE PYRAMIDS.
THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL, AREN'T THEY?
YES, THEY WERE...
HMM?
THUD!

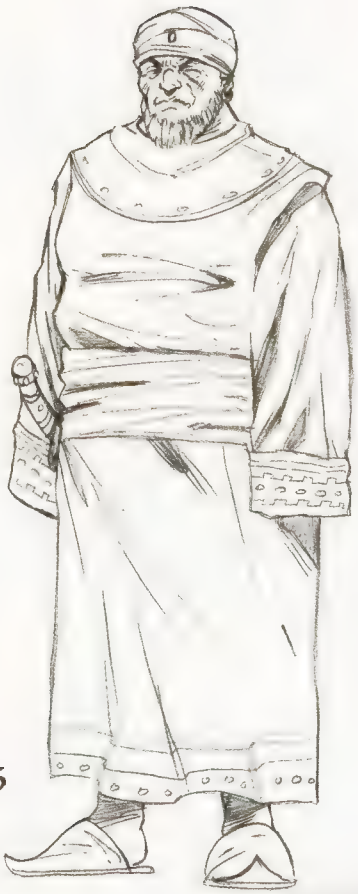
THIS MUST BE SPOILS FROM SOME FORGOTTEN CONQUEST.
I HAD NEED TO USE THESE ONLY ONCE. LIFE HAD PROVIDED ME WITH ENOUGH OMENS.
THE CONQUISTADOR MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN TO TELL HIS CHILDREN ABOUT HIS HIDDEN TREASURE.
THESE ARE PART OF MY TREASURE.
A GIFT FROM A KING I WILL NEVER SEE AGAIN.
IT'S TRUE; LIFE REALLY IS GENEROUS TO THOSE WHO PURSUE THEIR PERSONAL LEGENDS.
I NEED TO GET TO TARIFA.
I MUST SHARE MY TREASURE WITH THE GYPSY.

NOW ON TO THE GYPSY.
HMM...?
OH...
I'M COMING, FATIMA.

Spanish Boy

English Man

Fatima



Leader of the Oasis

General Blue Soldiers

Narcissus

Goddess 1

Goddess 2

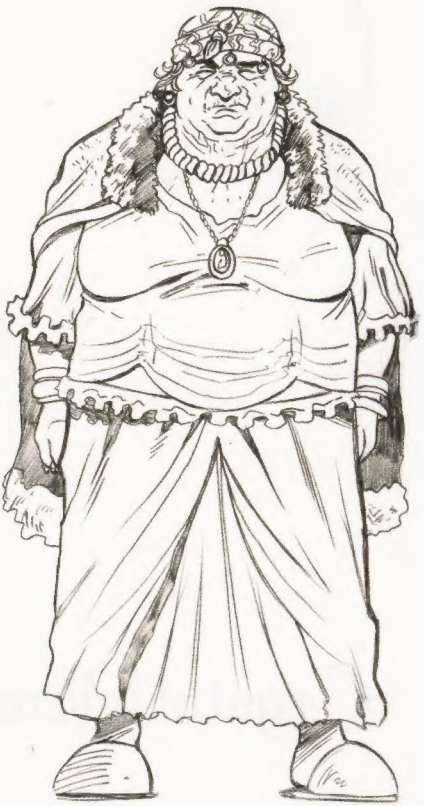
Santiago

The Alchemist

Merchant

Santiago's Father

Merchant's Daugther



Gypsy

EVERY FEW DECADES A BOOK
COMES ALONG THAT CHANGES THE LIVES
OF ITS READERS FOREVER

FICTION

"It was an old dream of mine
to have *The Alchemist* as a graphic novel.
This version exceeds my expectations
and is a beautiful manifestation
of what I originally imagined while
crafting this story."

—PAULO COELHO